The Book of Resolutions
of
The Desert Southwest
Annual Conference
of
The United Methodist Church
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1985.01: Domestic Hunger Responses
1985 Journal, p. 36
Submitted by Conference Council on Ministries
WHEREAS the prophet Amos proclaimed God’s judgement against those who “trample upon the poor”
and “turn aside the needy from the gate,” (Amos 5:11, 12) and
WHEREAS our Lord Jesus Christ said, “Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these you have
done it unto me,” and
WHEREAS out United Methodist Bishops have called upon our churches “to care for the needs of the
neighbor in this critical time with a sense of justice, compassion, understanding and God’s
presence,” and
WHEREAS God judges nations by the standard of justice – which first and foremost means how a nation
deals with the weak, the needs, and the vulnerable, and
WHEREAS to balance the budget we are faced with continued cutbacks and proposed cutbacks in
government programs which serve the pool;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist
Church urge state and national elected officials within our boundaries to support such programs as
Food Stamps, AFDC, School Lunch and Nutrition Programs for Children, and Aid to Pregnant
Women, especially in light of proposed cuts in these programs, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our local churches “to care for the needs of the neighbor”
by such action as:
1. Providing support for community hunger coalitions, food banks, soup kitchens and, if needed, to
begin such programs using local church facilities and resources
2. Support programs of direct need and advocacy throughout our Annual Conference by paying in
full the hunger quota apportioned to the churches
3. Engaging in study of the causes and extent of domestic hunger
4. Advocating locally, regionally and nationally for the maintaining and strengthening of
government programs which secure the needs of the poor.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference communicate this concern to
the appropriate state committees and the members of the U.S. Congress that fall within the bounds
of our Annual Conference.

1985.02: The Nuclear Arms Race
1985 Journal, pp. 36-37
Submitted by Conference Council on Ministries
WHEREAS the Bible says, “Some day there will be... national leaders who govern with justice (Isaiah
32:1); “nations shall not lift up sword against nations”; (Isaiah 2:4) “love your enemies” (Matthew
5:44); and
WHEREAS we are stewards of our natural world, and movements in the direction of world community
and peace are in the interests of all humankind, and
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has declared: “God’s world in one world” and “We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world and to the rule of justice and law among nations,” and
WHEREAS our church has urged that “militarization of society be stopped,” that the nuclear arms race be halted, that peace with justice and world law be instituted and that the United Nations be strengthened as a means of achieving those ends, and
WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has approved the expenditure of $1.5 billion for the MX missile which introduces the capacity for “first strike” strategies, thereby raising the threat level, shortening the response time, and destabilizing the present defense orientated posture, and
WHEREAS a number of the MX missiles may be located within the bounds of our Annual Conference
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference communicate our grave concern for the escalation of nuclear capacities to the President and Congressional representatives within the bound of our conference and to the leadership of the USSR.
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each local church be encouraged to study the Biblical roots of Shalom (peace) and the present status of Soviet-American nuclear capabilities
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Annual Conference facilitate the establishment of dialogue between citizens of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. through groups like the “Friendship Project, and Tucson Peace Center.”

1985.03: Non-intervention in Latin America

WHEREAS the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church condemn the violence of war with its dehumanizing accompaniment of terror, hunger, injustice and denial of hope; and
WHEREAS the church, proclaiming the gospel message of God of love and justice, affirms the dignity of all life; and
WHEREAS our brothers and sisters in Latin America have been urging us to support their struggle for freedom from centuries of oppression and poverty;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference:
1. Opposes any intervention by outside forces in the affairs of the Latin American and Caribbean nations
2. Condemns the authorization of any activity, military, or of any other nature covert or overt, directed against any sovereign state in Central, South America or the Caribbean, designed to destabilize existing governments by means, such as, withdrawal of capital, trade barriers, and funding for para-military activities
3. Opposed granting external economic aid without the infrastructure to ensure its equitable distribution
4. Further opposes the military support of governments in serious violation of basic human rights
5. Supports serious negotiations between all parties to the conflicts in that region
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference communicate this concern to the President and members of Congress in Washington who come from the bounds of this Annual Conference.

1985.04: Sanctuary

WHEREAS the Bible has many passages that support providing hospitality to the refugee, and
WHEREAS, the tradition of the church universal and our own United Methodist Church is to care for refugees escaping oppression, and
WHEREAS, the church has historically responded through participation in the underground railroad of the 1800s, the immigrant welcoming missions and the refugee sponsorship and relocation program, and
WHEREAS, international laws and conventions (i.e., Nuremburg Principle, Geneva Conventions, U.N. Charter) establish the rights of these fleeing for their lives due to political disruptions in their country of origin, and
WHEREAS, United States law, the Refugee Act of 1980, establish both the rights of refugees and the rights of American citizens to provide assistance, and
WHEREAS, members of the sanctuary movement, specifically those members of the Desert Southwest Border Ministry, have been indicted for their assistance of refugees,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference declare its support of the goal of the sanctuary movement which is to protect the lives and rights of the Central American political refugees who are seeking refuge in the United States by providing the necessary legal, social, physical, and employment assistance,
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference support Phil Conger, Peggy Hutchinson, Rev. George Lockwood, and others who may yet be named in legal actions by federal authorities, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we demonstrate this support by
1. offering moral support through prayer and fellowship,
2. requesting our local churches and members to contribute to the Arizona Legal Defense Funds which provide legal resources to those indicted and to Central American refugees, and
3. commending Peggy Hutchinson for her ministry.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we as a conference urge the President to change the policies of his administration concerning Central American refugees so that they conform with American ideals, laws, and traditions, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference commend Bishop Elias Galvan and Bishop Jack Tuell as well as the ecumenical religious community for their courageous leadership in support of the sanctuary movement.

1985.05: Allocation of Assets and Liabilities of the Phoenix District Union, Inc.
1985 Journal, pp. 38-39
Submitted by the Phoenix District Union, Inc.
WHEREAS at July 1, 1985 the churches in the Phoenix District as now constituted will be reassigned to the Central East, the Central West and the North Districts; and
WHEREAS The Phoenix District Union, Inc. serves the Phoenix District as currently constituted; and
WHEREAS though some would prefer a Metropolitan Phoenix District Union serving both Phoenix Districts, many prefer a separate District Union for each District; and
WHEREAS if such separate District Unions are so formed, the resources of the present corporation should be apportioned equitably to the new District so created and
WHEREAS there is question whether or not the officers and directors of the present corporation have the legal authority to effect the distribution.
THEREFORE said officers and directors of Phoenix District Union, Inc. present the following resolution for action by the Conference.
RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church does hereby authorize and instruct the officers of the Phoenix District Union, Inc. to apportion its assets and
liabilities as of June 30, 1985 according to the formula and annotations accompanying this resolution.

PHOENIX DISTRICT UNION, INC.
Proposed Allocation of Assets and Liabilities
As of June 30, 1985

Following the same theory used by the Pacific and Southwest Annual Conference whereby certain assets and liabilities were allocated according to their physical location, certain assets and liabilities of the District Union to be allocated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Central East</th>
<th>Central West</th>
<th>North</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – Seventh Avenue Church Site</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – District Superintendent’s Parsonage</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – Clarkdale Church Site</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 – Garfield Church Properties</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – Capitol Parsonage</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – St. Paul Parsonage &amp; Lot</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – Curl Acres Lot</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 – Haven Trust Fund</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remaining assets and liabilities (except Capitol Projects Trust Funds) to be allocated by percentages determined by following formula (based on the 1984 CONFERENCE JOURNAL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Central East</th>
<th>Central West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</td>
<td>26.77%</td>
<td>66.12%</td>
<td>12.11%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PAYMENTS TO CONFERENCE FOR ADMINISTRATION, MINISTERIAL SUPPORT AND BENEVOLENCES</td>
<td>29.39%</td>
<td>60.47%</td>
<td>10.14%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE (used for allocation)</td>
<td>28.08%</td>
<td>60.80%</td>
<td>11.12%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capitol Project Trust Funds realized from the sale of the Capitol and St. Paul Church facilities and designated for use for capital needs of ethnic minority and other economically disadvantaged churches in the Metropolitan Phoenix area to be allocated to the Central East and Central West districts on the same basic formula as used in allocated undesignated assets and liabilities, but limited to those two districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Central East</th>
<th>Central West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</td>
<td>30.46%</td>
<td>69.54%</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PAYMENTS TO CONFERENCE FOR ADMINISTRATION, MINISTERIAL SUPPORT AND BENEVOLENCES</td>
<td>32.71%</td>
<td>67.29%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE (used for allocation)</td>
<td>31.59%</td>
<td>68.41%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The directors of the Phoenix District Union, Inc. urge that, if the Garfield Church properties cease to be used as such and are sold, then the proceeds, realized from the sale shall be divided between the Central East and Central West Districts using the same formula used above to allocate the funds from the sale of Capitol and St. Paul properties.
1985.06: Metropolitan Phoenix Commission of the United Methodist Church
1985 Journal, p. 39
Submitted by the Phoenix District Union, Inc.
WHEREAS The Metropolitan Phoenix Commission of the United Methodist Church (MEPCO) is a division of the Phoenix District Union, Inc., and
WHEREAS The Phoenix District Union, Inc. will be dissolved after July 1, 1985, and
WHEREAS MEPCO endeavors to minister to the entire Metropolitan Phoenix area; and
WHEREAS it is the opinion of the executive committee that, since this ministry crosses all boundary lines and serves and is supported by all churches in the Metropolitan area;
NOW THEREFORE The Phoenix District Union, Inc. recommends the following resolution for adoption by the Annual Conference.
RESOLVED that one Metropolitan ministry be constituted to serve the entire Metropolitan Phoenix area and that it be incorporated under the direction and supervision of the Annual Conference.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force (WHEAT) be informed of this action and advised of their need to create its separate corporate identity.

1986.01: In Defense of All Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace
1986 Journal, p. 32
WHEREAS "In the beginning God created the heaven and earth . . . and saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:1, 10) and
WHEREAS God said "I establish my covenant with you and with your seed" (Gen. 9:9) and
WHEREAS the United Methodist Council of Bishops has adopted a pastoral letter calling the denomination to “move to faithful witness and action” in the face of a “worsening nuclear crisis”
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church
1. Direct the Church and Society Task Group to assist local churches in utilizing the study guide that accompanies the Council of Bishops’ Pastoral Letter.
2. Request local congregations study the document and respond to its content by Easter 1987.
3. Commends the Council of Bishops for its courageous leadership in causing the church to confront the escalating nuclear crisis. We direct the Secretary to communicate this commendation to the Council of Bishops.

1986.02: Domestic Violence
1986 Journal, p. 32
WHEREAS the U.M. Social Principles states that, “primary for us is the gospel understanding that all persons are important”
WHEREAS domestic violence violates the plan of God for individuals and families
WHEREAS domestic violence is no respector of persons, social level, educational background, or ethnicity
WHEREAS domestic violence is unfortunately too common an occurrence in families and homes within and outside the church
WHEREAS the local church has a unique opportunity to minister to families in crisis
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that
1. We encourage local churches to become sensitive to the occurrence of domestic violence in all its forms and strengthen its ministries in the area of family conflict resolution;
2. We encourage church professionals to become aware of the warning signs and symptoms of domestic violence in all its forms;
3. We encourage local churches to become aware of local church and community resources for education, intervention, and treatment of families and individuals experiencing domestic violence;
4. We request that by July 1987, the Board of Ministry and Church & Society develop and implement training programs for church professionals regarding the recognition of the warning signs and symptoms of families and individuals experiencing domestic violence and exploring the ethical responsibilities in counseling.

1986.03: South Africa
1986 Journal, pp. 32-33

WHEREAS the church, proclaiming the gospel message of the God of love and justice, affirms the dignity of all life; and
WHEREAS the United Methodist Social Principles state that "The church must regard Nations as accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens" (1980)
WHEREAS as Christians we are required to respond to injustice against all humanity
WHEREAS we do not believe that alleged significant unemployment or compromising the military are sufficient grounds to maintain apartheid
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference
1. Condemns the sin of Apartheid;
2. Communicate our support to the Church of South Africa as they seek to address the evils of Apartheid
3. Calls for full economic sanctions against South Africa;
4. Petition the General Board of Pensions to divest our financial interests in South Africa;
5. Call on individual United Methodists to divest their financial interest in South Africa;
6. Refrain from investing in South Africa until Apartheid is ended;
7. Call on state legislators to encourage the government and private business sectors to divest their holdings in South Africa.
8. To encourage Local Churches to observe the Day of Remembrance for South Africa on June 15.
THEREFORE be it further resolved that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference communicate this concern to the President and members of Congress in Washington who come from within the bound of this Annual Conference.

1986.04: Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr's – Holiday
1986 Journal, p. 33

WHEREAS the third Monday in January has been proclaimed a national holiday in honor of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
WHEREAS this day honors his attempts to achieve social justice for all
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference
1. Calls on all of its churches and related program agencies to observe this day as a national holiday by closing church offices and encourage participation in observance of this day;
2. Calls all churches to honor this day the preceding Sunday;
3. Urge respective state legislators to enact legislation to observe this as a state holiday by closing state offices.
4. Send a letter of congratulation to Governor Babbit of Arizona and Governor Bryant of Nevada for their action in recognizing this day.
5. To encourage Local Government agencies to observe this holiday.

1986.05: Support of Persons with AIDS

WHEREAS Jesus healing ministry was an expression of God's grace and we have no record that Jesus ever withheld healing and mercy from anyone in need ... and
WHEREAS we are committed to the ministry of love and Koinonia expressed in the life of Jesus ... and
WHEREAS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been responsible for the deaths of almost 2/3 of all people contacting AIDS, and
WHEREAS the General Board of Discipleship has recently stated, “We, the Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, recognize that in the midst of this epidemic we are called to accept people as they are, relate them to God's healing grace, and empower them to undertake ministries of compassion and hope.” and
WHEREAS we are all affected by the potential consequences of AIDS ...
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference recognize people with AIDS as persons of sacred worth and encourage local churches to minister to them and their families, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Council on Ministries be requested to develop a packet of information to assist local churches in supporting people with AIDS and their families.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference call for increase in financial resources for medical research for prevention and cure at the State and Federal levels by notifying the legislators within the bounds of this Annual Conference, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Annual Conference support the adoption of nondiscrimination positions in the personnel policy of public and private industry, in as far as public health research warrants such policies.

1986.06: The Campbell Soup Company Boycott

WHEREAS the General Board of Church & Society as well as individual United Methodist endorsed a boycott of the products of the Campbell Soup Company, and;
WHEREAS the Campbell Soup Company boycott was officially suspended on February 21, 1986, and;
WHEREAS the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and the Campbell Soup Company were called upon to cooperate fully in the collective bargaining process based upon the 1984 Social Principle of the UMC which affirms the right and obligation of those involved in labor dispute to settle their differences through collective bargaining, and;
WHEREAS FLOC, the Campbell Soup Company and the growers signed an historic three part collective bargaining agreement on February 18 and 19, 1986.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Church & Society Task Force on behalf of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference commends all parties involved in the 7 year-old dispute for their ultimate signing of a contract, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the validity of the boycott procedure is affirmed as an effective tool in the bargaining process.
1986.07: Navajo/Hopi Land Settlement Act
1986 Journal, p. 34

WHEREAS the unity we find in Christ recognizes that "we are neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female," and;
WHEREAS our Social Principles (1980) read "The conditions of Indian people continue to deteriorate on a national and international level through the genocidal policies of various governments and regimes in the Western Hemisphere, through land and resource acquisition by multinational corporations, sterilization, mass murder, and the denial of religious freedom." and;
WHEREAS the Navajo/Hopi Land Settlement Act (P.L. 93-531) passed by Congress in 1974 has caused grave hardship among the 13,000 Navajo people dislocated from their land and threatens the traditional lifestyle of both the Navajo and Hopi people, and;
WHEREAS the settlement act is significantly motivated by economic gains by energy production firms seeking easier access to coal and uranium, and;
WHEREAS the government has failed to provide promised land for relocation and has forced Navajo people into non-traditional lifestyles in Gallup and Flagstaff leading to many cases of destitution, Hopi lifestyles are equally threatened, and;
WHEREAS attempts have been made to soften the impact by involving the B.I.A. in relocation procedures, and most recently by the introduction of Public Law 96-305 by Morris Udahl, but these attempts do not address the whole problem.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference calls upon the Congress of the U.S. to repeal the Land Settlement Act (P.L. 93-531), and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we notify the congressional representatives and Senators representing the people within the bounds of the Annual Conference of our position, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Conference Board of Global Ministries, in cooperation with the Boards of adjoining states and the National board and pastors and ministers serving in the area, advocate with and on behalf of the Navajo and Hopi people for a just settlement of this issue, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage local church members to study the issue and address their congressional representatives.

1986.08: Sanctuary
1986 Journal, pp. 34-35

WHEREAS many Biblical passages, such as Leviticus 19:33-34, Exodus 3:7-8, and Matthew 25:31-46, teach us to show mercy toward those suffering from oppression and the denial of basic human rights both in their homelands and in the countries to which they flee; and
WHEREAS the tradition of the church universal and our own United Methodist Church is to care for refugees escaping inhuman conditions of torture, death, and the ravages of war; and
WHEREAS our own Lord Jesus Christ was forced to flee with his family from the terror of King Herod to the relative safety of Egypt (Matthew 2:13-22); and
WHEREAS thousands of men, women, and children have fled to our country to escape the ongoing horror of civil war in El Salvador and Guatemala, and have been overwhelmingly denied their petitions for political asylum in the United States or extended voluntary departure status until it is safe for them to return to their homelands, and instead are being deported or placed in jeopardy of deportation by the Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, while much higher percentages of refugees from countries such as Nicaragua, Poland, and Afghanistan are afforded sanctuary by our government; and
WHEREAS both U.S. law and international law (the U.S. Refugee Act of 1980, passed by Congress and signed by President Carter; the Nuremberg Principle, the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of
victims of war, and the 1967 United Nations Protocols on Refugees) insist that refugees be treated
with equal fairness without regard to their country of origin and that U.S. citizens have the legal
right to provide assistance to them; and
WHEREAS the 1984 General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Baltimore, the 1984 Pacific
and Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the 1985 session of the
Desert Southwest Annual Conference all passed resolutions of support for the Sanctuary Movement
for Central American refugees and those United Methodists engaged in ministry to refugees; and
WHEREAS members of the nationwide Sanctuary Movement, and specifically three members of the
Desert Southwest Annual Conference Border Ministry, i.e., Peggy Hutchison, Phil Willis-Conger, and
Rev. George Lockwood, have suffered prosecution and judgment in Federal Court for their
compassionate beliefs and actions, and other United Methodists and others involved in this ministry
may face similar persecution in the future;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference declare its support of the
goal of the Sanctuary Movement, which is to protect the lives and rights of Central American
political refugees seeking refuge in the United States by providing necessary legal, social, physical,
employment, emotional, and spiritual assistance;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference support Phil Willis-Conger,
Peggy Hutchison, Rev. George Lockwood, and others engaged in this ministry as they face with
courage and Christian conviction the unjust human convictions imposed by the court, and stand
with them in prayer, fellowship, concern, and the mutual bearing of burdens they must face and the
ministry with refugees which shall and must go on;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to support the Arizona Legal Defense
Fund to pay for the appeal of the convictions: and encourage President Reagan and the State
Department to change their policies concerning Central American refugees so that they conform
with American and Christian ideals, laws, and traditions; and support our church leaders, including
Bishop Elias Galvan, in their courageous support for the sanctuary movement;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to President Reagan, Attorney
General Edwin Meese, Secretary of State George Schulz, and the appropriate members of the
Arizona, Nevada, and California Congressional delegations.

1987.01: Local Church and Society Structure
1987 Journal, pp. 32-33

WHEREAS the purpose of Church and Society structure “shall be to relate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to
the members of the church and to the persons and structures of communities and world in which
we live,” (1984 Book of Discipline, ¶ 1102) and “to analyze the issues which confront the person, the
local community, the nation and the world; and to encourage Christian lines of action which assist
humankind to move toward a world where peace and justice are achieved” (1984 Book of Discipline,
¶ 1103); and
WHEREAS “faith by itself, if it has no works is dead” (James 2:17), and there is no greater need for the
works of faith than where faith touches life to redeem and remake society after the pattern of
Christ’s redemptive love where all shall live in the Spirit of Shalom; and
WHEREAS only forty-two (42) of the one hundred and thirteen (113) local churches of this Desert
Southwest Conference responded to the Conference Church and Society Survey of November, 1986
that they had either a committee or a chairperson/coordinator for church and society
issues/purposes; and
WHEREAS it is essential for each church to have a Church and Society Committee, or at least have a chairperson/coordinator that the church may touch and transform life in all its aspects of society in all of our communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. Covenant among ourselves and with each other that each local church shall establish a Church and Society Committee, or at least have a chairperson/coordinator for Church and Society issues/matters (1984 Book of Discipline, ¶ 261.2); and

2. That we as the lay and clergy members of this conference shall convey this resolution to our local church Committee on Nominations requesting them to nominate a Church and Society Committee and/or chairperson/coordinator in each local church;

3. Covenantally call upon each of our District Superintendents to assure that each local church establishes a Church and Society Committee, or at least a chairperson/coordinator for church and society issues/matters at the next meeting of each Annual Charge/Church Conference.

1987.02: Ethnic Minority Local Church Emphasis

1987 Journal, p. 33

WHEREAS “We recommend and encourage the self-awareness of all racial and ethnic minorities and oppressed people…” (1984 Book of Discipline, ¶ 72.A); and

WHEREAS the missional priority emphasis of the Ethnic Minority Local Church has lifted the need and enhanced the effective ministry of and for ethnic minority local churches and programs; and

WHEREAS this priority cannot adequately effect the needed and necessary enhancement of ethnic minority local church ministries in a single quadrennium; and

WHEREAS there exists the strong possibility that the Ethnic Minority Local Church priority may not be continued as a missional priority for a third quadrennium;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. Petition the 1988 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to adopt the Ethnic Minority Local Church priority as an on-going program of the church with such structure(s) and resources as to effect the continued and meaningful advancement of this ministry irrespective of missional priority status; and

2. Make such structural and financial arrangements/plans as necessary during the ensuing conference year 1987-88 to assure the continuation of the Ethnic Minority Local Church priority - within the bounds of this Annual Conference irrespective of General Conference action.


1987 Journal, pp. 33-34

WHEREAS the United Methodist Council of Bishops has led us in study and prayer regarding “the things that make for peace”; and

WHEREAS in this study and prayer they have called us from the “idolatry of deterrence” based on terror and fear of nuclear annihilation where “nuclear deterrence has become a dogmatic license for perpetual hostility” (Foundation Document, pages 46f); and

WHEREAS the Council of Bishops has called us to return to our basic Christian and United Methodist heritage of compassionate love as energized peacemakers: a people of Shalom; and

WHEREAS in their Foundation Document they have called the United Methodist Church to be “The Church as Peacemaker” (Chapter 6); and

WHEREAS the very love and Gospel of Jesus Christ demands that we “rise up and follow”; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Enable local congregations to understand and appreciate the role of peacemaking as both Christian and patriotic; and
2. Encourage all local churches who have not yet prayerfully studied the Foundation Document to do so before the birthday of the Prince of Peace, Christmas, 1987; and
3. Encourage the study of the United Methodist Peacemaking curriculum by all ages: children, youth, young adults, and adults; and
4. Encourage all local churches that have participated in the study to continue new study groups including others who have not yet participated; and
5. Petition the 1988 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to make “The Church as Peacemaker” and all attendant issues of “peace with justice” the quadrennial emphasis missional priority for the next quadrennium; and
6. Encourage all local congregations and pastors to actively continue in prayer, study, dialogue and action regarding the issues of peace and justice; and

1987.04: Racism and Nuclear Arms

WHEREAS the purpose of Church and Society structure “shall be to relate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the church and to the persons and structures of communities and world in which we live,” (1984 Book of Discipline, ¶ 1102) and “to analyze the issues which confront the person, the local community, the nation and the world and to encourage Christian lines of action which assist humankind to move toward a world where peace and justice are achieved.” (Book of Discipline, ¶ 1103); and
WHEREAS there is continuing racial injustice and nuclear arms testing; and
WHEREAS the products used in the arms race are polluting our environment; and
WHEREAS the sessions of the General Conference are a most appropriate and natural forum for raising and addressing these issues;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Urge the Commission on the General Conference, in its planning for worship and special programs, to emphasize our United Methodist witness to abundant life in Christ against the powers of death embodied in the twin demons of racism and nuclear arms testing and build-up; and
2. Urge the General Council on Ministries to coordinate programmatic initiatives in preparation for General Conference that make plain the interlocking issues of racial justice and world peace.
(Note: Items 1 & 2 above are offered in conjunction with the New York Conference request received from Dr. Wilson Boots 2/27/87)

1987.05: Responsibility in Media Advertising

WHEREAS the body is the temple of God and should not be defiled; and
WHEREAS professional and collegiate athletes are portrayed as, and in fact are, role models for our children and youth; and
WHEREAS by the ingestion of harmful materials we lessen our abilities, comprehension, and compassion; and
WHEREAS the 1987 Fiesta Bowl advertising by Sunkist Corporation demonstrated that media athletic events/programming can be successfully sponsored by other than alcoholic beverage companies;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Commend the Fiesta Bowl Committee for choosing an alternative sponsor and thereby paving the way for others to do likewise; and
2. Encourage the television and radio media to refrain from using alcoholic beverage advertising as sponsorship for athletic/sports programming and thereby demonstrating their responsibility toward the youth of our society; and
3. Convey this resolution to all radio and television stations resident within the bounds of this Desert Southwest Conference.

1987.07: 1988 Conference Apportionments to the General Church
1987 Journal, pp. 34-35
WHEREAS “But a firstling of animals, which as a firstling belongs to the Lord, no man may dedicate, whether ox or sheep, it is the Lord’s.” (Leviticus 27:26); and
WHEREAS “bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an everlasting blessing.” (Malachi 3:10); and
WHEREAS a major mission and outreach ministry of the Local Church and the United Methodist Church are one in the same in this connectional system through the apportionment process; and
WHEREAS the Conference cannot request the Local Church to make a 100% commitment without making a similar commitment of 100%; and
WHEREAS the basis of our entire theology is faith in Him who provides all and this basis demands that we place faith in ourselves to respond to His call;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference forward 100% of the requested apportionments to the General Council on Finance and Administration for the year 1988. The requested apportionments are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Service</td>
<td>$297,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Church Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>46,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary General Aid</td>
<td>5,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdenominational Coop. Fund</td>
<td>8,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Church Administration Fund</td>
<td>22,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>157,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black College Fund</td>
<td>61,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Priorities</td>
<td>43,287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total                                    | $642,346   

1987.08: Nicaragua vs The United States
1987 Journal, pp. 35-36
WHEREAS the United States is a law abiding nation cherishing and defending the law of democracy and majority rule; and
WHEREAS on June 26, 1945 President Harry Truman signed the Charter of the United Nations; and
WHEREAS July 28, 1945 the United States Senate ratified that Charter by a vote of 89 to 2; and
WHEREAS each member of the United Nations, including the United States agreed to “fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present charter”; and
WHEREAS the United Nations Charter designates the International Court of Justice (commonly known as the “World Court”) as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations; and
WHEREAS “believing that international justice requires the participation of all peoples, we 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 of law.” (The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 1984, ¶ 75.d); and

WHEREAS on April 9, 1984 Nicaragua filed with the International Court of Justice (I.C.J.) an Application instituting proceedings against the United States regarding military and paramilitary activities against Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS on May 10, 1984 the I.C.J.;
1) Unanimously (including the U.S. Judge) rejected a United States request that proceedings be terminated summarily;
2) Unanimously (including the U. S. Judge) ordered that the United States should immediately cease and refrain from any actions against Nicaragua
3) By a vote of 14 to 1 indicated that Nicaragua’s right to sovereignty and to political independence should not be jeopardized...; and
4) Unanimously (including the U.S. Judge) indicated that neither party should do anything to aggravate the dispute or to prejudice rights as finally decided by the Court; and

WHEREAS on November 26, 1984 the I.C.J. unanimously (including the U.S. Judge) determined the Application of (04/09/84) was admissible; and by a vote of 15 to 1 determined the Court has jurisdiction to entertain the case; and

WHEREAS on June 27, 1986 the I.C.J. determined:
1) that the United States is under a duty to immediately cease and refrain from all such acts (vote was 12 to 3);
2) that the United States is under obligation to make reparation to Nicaragua for injury caused by breaches;
   a) under customary international law (vote was 12 to 3)
   b) under U.S. - Nicaragua Treaty of Friendship (vote was 14 to 1)
3) Unanimously (including the U.S. Judge) reminded both parties of their obligation to seek a resolution by peaceful means;
4) that the United States should stop supporting the Contras (vote was 12 to 3); and

WHEREAS on October 28, 1986 the United Nations Security Council voted 11 to 1 (with 3 abstentions) “for full and immediate compliance with the judgment of I.C.J. of June 27, 1986” (note: United States vote vetoed this); and

WHEREAS on November 3, 1986 the U.N. General Assembly voted on this same issue (I.C.J. ruling of June 27, 1986) and out of 144 nations participating: 94 supported the ruling, 3 opposed (47 abstained); and

WHEREAS on April 1987 Bishop Elias Galvan of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference led a delegation of eleven (11) persons to Nicaragua where they were genuinely anguished and appalled by the injustice, inhumanity, suffering and death imposed on our Christian brothers and sisters in that land by the Contra forces precipitated by the failure of our United States government to abide by these universally recognized principles and laws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert South-west Conference of the United Methodist Church this day:
1. Call upon the United States to honor its treaties and obligations thereby restoring to the world it's exemplary nature as il law abiding people of democratic rule, principle, origins and obligations; and
2. Urges the United States government to comply with the June 27, 1986 Judgment of the International Court of Justice in the case of Nicaragua vs the United States: and
3. Urge as a law abiding nation the United States cease and desist from all overt and covert actions against Nicaragua at once in accord with the I.C.J. ruling, including the immediate cessation of all support to the so called "Contras": and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Communicate this resolve and conviction to the U.S. President, Vice President, all members of the President's Cabinet and to all the U.S. Senators and Representatives who represent "we the people" of this Desert Southwest Conference geographic area.
2. Become better informed as churches and individuals regarding this situation and call upon each local church and each person to communicate their convictions and resolve to the appropriate persons as noted in number one (1) above.

(Note: information and documentation for this resolution has been provided by Dr. August G. Eckhardt, College of Law, University of Arizona, January 21, 1987)

1988.01: Pastoral Appointments Irrespective of Sex, Race or Ethnicity

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church professes to be an open church void of discriminatory patterns and procedures; and
WHEREAS the United Methodist Social Principles (Book of Discipline, ¶ 72) call us to assume “the Rights of Racial and Ethnic Minorities” (¶ 72.A); “Rights of Women” (¶ 72.F); and
WHEREAS ¶ 72 (noted above) especially in sections 'A' and 'E' state: “We affirm/assert right of members of racial and ethnic minorities and of women to equal opportunities in employment and promotion”; and
WHEREAS ¶ 72.A affirms: “We reject racism in every form”; and
WHEREAS it is the responsibility of church and society to assure these equitable rights; and
WHEREAS in fact the church is still the place of considerable segregation and inequality based on sex, race and/or ethnicity; and
WHEREAS some ethnic minority and/or female pastors have come to believe that there is no promotional opportunity for them in this conference; and
WHEREAS this is contrary to the Gospel of our Lord and the teaching of the United Methodist Church;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Affirm for the first time in our history as an Annual Conference that:
   a. Local churches shall be reminded of the disciplinary provision regarding pastoral appointments (¶ 529) — “appointments are to be made with consideration of the gifts and graces of those appointed, to the needs, characteristics, and opportunities of congregations and institutions to an open itinerancy. Open itinerancy means appointments are made without regard to race, ethnic origin, sex, color, or age, except for the provisions of mandatory retirement. Through appointment making, the connectional nature of the United Methodist system is made visible.”
   b. That our Bishop and cabinet are strongly and supportably urged to make all pastoral appointments on the basis of ability, gifts and graces totally irrespective of sex, race or ethnicity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Urges the Bishop and Cabinet to promote open itinerancy with every local church; and
2. Recommends that the Bishop and Cabinet consult annually with the Commissions on Religion and Race, and Status and Role of Women in order to monitor the progress of Open Itinerancy in the Desert Southwest Conference.
1988.02: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
1988 Journal, p. 39

WHEREAS the third Monday in January has been proclaimed a national holiday in honor of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
WHEREAS this day recognizes his outstanding life as a Christian and his superb efforts to achieve social justice for all; and
WHEREAS no person has been untouched; but, rather all persons irrespective of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin are enabled and dignified because of his life and dedicated ideals and service; and
WHEREAS the 1986 session of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted Resolution R.04 "Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. Holiday; and
WHEREAS the state of Arizona, an integral part of the nation, has to date failed to officially recognize this national third Monday in January holiday;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference at its 1988 session reaffirm Resolution R.04 of 1986 sub-sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and intensify all efforts regarding:
1. To encourage all churches and related program agencies to observe this day as a national holiday by closing church offices and encourage participation in the observance of this day; and
2. To encourage all churches to honor this day on the preceding Sunday; and
3. To encourage the respective Arizona State Legislators to enact legislation to observe this as a state holiday by closing all offices; and
4. To encourage local government agencies to also observe this holiday; and
5. To bring the recognition of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday into harmony with the other two states of Nevada and California.

1988.03: The Things That Make For Peace

WHEREAS Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem saying: "would that even today you knew the things that make for peace!" (Luke 19:41-2); and
WHEREAS the Gospel of our Lord calls us to be a family of caring and sharing persons under the Parenthood of God; and
WHEREAS we can have no higher calling as humans than to be Christians and no higher calling as Christians than to be peacemakers, the very children of God; and
WHEREAS the heart of God still breaks at our inhuman ways for "still we know not the things that make for peace;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church;
1. Commend Bishop Elias G. Galvan and the Council of Bishops for their continued leadership in this area; and
2. Commend the Conference Age Level Coordinator Joyce Thorton in the ways she has endeavored to make peace-making studies a priority at various levels and places; and
3. Commend Betty Benton and Linda Carlson-Shaw of Phoenix First United Methodist Church and their friends in PEACE LINKS for their efforts at understanding and peace, including their two (2) week visit to the USSR and their leadership in peace education and rejoice with other churches who will be sending delegations; and
4. Commend the steadfast efforts of the Arizona Center to Reverse the Arms Race and similar organizations in California and Nevada; and
5. Encourage every church to become active in peace making that the spirit of Shalom "the peace that was meant to be" grow within us and between us; seeking ways to promote peace within our homes, communities, nation and world; and
6. Request that the United States create a Cabinet level office: Secretary of Peace to sit at the same conference table as the Secretary of Defense with Equal voice and vote. To help enable this the Conference Board of Church and Society shall actively encourage such with the offices of all members of the United States Congress and Cabinet and encourage the General Board of Church and Society, Washington to aggressively pursue the same; and

7. Request the General Board of Church and Society through its New York liaison office to aggressively work with every nation to create a cabinet (or equivalent) level office of Secretary of Peace (as in #6 above); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Authorize the Conference Board of Church and Society to Distribute copies of Request #6 of a Cabinet level office to:
   a. All Bishops of the United Methodist Church, and
   b. The titular heads of religious organizations in the United States; and
   c. All delegations at the United Nations and to the Secretary General of same; and
   d. Any others deemed appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Acknowledge that understanding and peace in this world will never come easily; and
2. Acknowledge that this is but a beginning step and the cause of peace-making – “being the children of God“ requires continued diligence, and pains-taking efforts over a prolonged period; and
3. Dedicates itself this day to this task no matter how difficult or prolonged; and
4. Recognizes this task as central to the Gospel of our Lord, the Prince of Peace.

1988.04: AIDS Education
1988 Journal, p. 40

WHEREAS the Surgeon General of the United States of America states that "knowing the facts about AIDS can prevent the spread of the disease. Education of those who risk infecting themselves or infecting other people is the only way we can stop the spread of AIDS."; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive and effective education plan must be developed and must include specific strategies for reaching all people. Education must include the most current data available from scientific research based agencies and adjusted for language and cultural variations. In addition, all programs should be appropriate to the cognitive/ developmental age of the target populations; and

WHEREAS education programs should include clear and explicit material and must go beyond the distribution of information. They must also include the skill developments necessary to help individuals change their own behavior if their behavior puts them at risk to develop AIDS; and

WHEREAS church based education must be undertaken with parental involvement. Parents exert a strong influence over their child's development of attitudes and behaviors. They need information and skills to help them adequately address their children's questions and concerns; and

WHEREAS the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in May, 1986 adopted Resolution R. 05 "Support of Persons with AIDS" (see 1986 Conference Journal, page 33); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church support the education of the people of all ages to help them prevent themselves from being exposed to HIV, to prevent them from spreading HIV, if they have already been exposed, to promote a sensitive and nondiscriminatory response to HIV infected individuals and to help us avoid the panic and fear that sometimes characterizes responses to the AIDS crisis; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:
1. Reaffirm that each local church provide AIDS education for children, youth, young adults and adults before the 1989 session of the Annual Conference; and
2. That the Conference reaffirm the adoption of Resolution R.05 approved by the 1986 Annual Conference at the 1988 Session of the Conference, with the amendment that the "packet of information to assist local churches in supporting people with AIDS and their families" be developed by the Board of Church and Society section on AIDS rather than "the Council on Ministries"; and
3. Recommend that the Board of Church and Society sponsor training workshops in each district of the Conference on "Ministering to People with AIDS and Their Families."

1988.05: Alcoholic Beverage Industry Advertisements at Schools of Higher Education
1988 Journal, p. 41
WHEREAS the General Conference passed a resolution entitled "Alcohol as a Health Problem": (Book of Resolutions 1984, page 273) and
WHEREAS the General Board of Church and Society appointed a task force to implement that resolution in the United Methodist Church and
WHEREAS the Alcoholic Beverage industry's ads on TV, radio and in the printed media are targeted toward our youth; and
WHEREAS a study made at Arizona State University revealed that alcohol was the most-abused drug at ASU. Ninety-five (95) percent of the students had used alcohol in their lifetime, and 76 percent had used it in the month before they answered the survey.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirm its historic stand against the misuse of alcoholic beverages; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:
Write to all Boards of Regents of Arizona, California, Nevada, and universities, colleges, and schools of higher education, within its jurisdiction, urging them to refrain from accepting advertisement, paid or otherwise for alcoholic beverages in their school newspapers for any events, and further urging them to not display at sporting events, within sight of the players and spectators, any advertisement, logos nor brand names of any alcoholic beverages, nor permit the sponsorship of events on/ or for said schools.

1988.06: Half-Time Conference Youth Ministry Worker
1988 Journal, p. 41
WHEREAS local churches have been asking for help in training, recruiting, and encouraging competent Adult Workers with Youth; and
WHEREAS Youth ministry was determined to be the third highest Conference priority; and
WHEREAS the Conference camping program needs overall programing coordination; and
WHEREAS the youth of the church today embody the church of tomorrow;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference hire a half-time Conference Youth Worker to start January 1, 1989. Further that the Council on Finance and Administration be directed to make $24,650 available for this position in 1989.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:
1. The hiring of the Youth Worker be done by the personnel committee of the Council on Ministries after the interviewing of as many different candidates for the position as is possible, and
2. The performance of the Youth Worker be evaluated by that same personnel committee.

1989.01: To Love the Sojourner
1989 Journal, p. 33
WHEREAS, That period of legalization for undocumented persons in the United States provided by the new Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 expired on May 4, 1988, leaving millions of undocumented people without the legal recourse to change their status; and
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church called by its tradition, principles, and mission is compelled to extend its healing, pastoral ministry, and protection to the men, women, and children who as undocumented people will be left in our midst; and
WHEREAS, The Council of Bishops has recommended at their last council meeting this document for study;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church through and with the assistance of the General Boards and Conference Boards, make available the document "To Love the Sojourner" to all local churches as a study guide for better understanding of the history, root causes of the migration of peoples to this country and the responses through the years. This document will also serve as a guide for the development of comprehensive ministry and action strategies in response to the struggle of the undocumented people in this country; and
IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED That each church in Desert Southwest Conference read aloud from the pulpit the Bishops' statement on Undocumented Migration: "To Love the Sojourner".

1989.02: Stop Use of Styrofoam
1989 Journal, p. 33
WHEREAS, Scientists tell us that unless we start immediately to protect the ozone layer around the earth, which protects us from harmful ultra violet rays, by the year 2050 much of North America will be desert; and
WHEREAS, Continued ozone decline could lead to an increase in skin cancer, cataracts, immune system depressions, reduced crop yields, depleted marine · fisheries, and increased smog; and
WHEREAS, The use of styrofoam cups and products contributes to the destruction of the ozone by releasing chemicals which when they reach the ozone level combine with one of the oxygen atoms of the ozone resulting in the change of ozone into oxygen.
FORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches in the conference not to use styrofoam cups and products. In making this choice, churches can choose options which are more ecologically safe, such as paper items and washable cups and
IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference model this recommendation by discontinuing the use of styrofoam products in the Conference Headquarters, District Offices, and at Conference sponsored events.

1989.03: Observation of Central America Week
1989 Journal, pp. 33-34
WHEREAS, United Methodist missionaries in Central America remind us, "The two regions of our hemisphere are shockingly unequal. As residents of the United States, we are constantly reminded
of the extraordinary impact of decisions made by our government on the people we serve. We cannot but feel the costs of decisions that perpetuate war and injustice. Christ’s ministry of reconciliation invites us all to become His peacemakers”; and

WHEREAS, Joint mission consultations between the United States and Latin American church agencies, 1986-89, seek "a change of consciousness in the USA which will lead to a change from the dynamic of ‘giving’ and ‘receiving’ to a process of confidence and mutual respect where there are no ‘donors’ and ‘recipients’, rather two parts of the same church”; and

WHEREAS, The document Kairos Central America, signed by more than one hundred priests, pastors, theologians, and lay people on April 1988 states, "It is no longer possible to be a Christian shut up in the narrow confines of one's own community, or country ... The cosmos is our home. The world is our responsibility. It is there that we must make our passionate cry, 'Come Lord Jesus.'"; and

WHEREAS, Central American Week has become an annual memorial and celebration of the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was gunned down while saying Mass on Palm Sunday, March 24, 1980;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That all churches in the Desert Southwest Conference are encouraged to observe Central America Week by participating directly with the United Methodist Church Border Ministry, local Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America, and by using the excellent worship and program materials available from the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 563, New York, NY 10115; telephone (212) 870-3383.

1989.04: Opposition to Star Wars

1989 Journal, p. 34

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Council of Bishops in their 1986 pastoral letter and foundation document, In Defense of Creation, expressed their concern for development and deployment of space-based defense and explained:

- We are impressed by the doubts of many eminent scientists.
- We are concerned about the possible offensive implications.
- We are worried about the consequences for arms reduction.
- We are appalled at the probable costs.
- And we remember once again how often the Scriptures warn us against false hopes for peace and security; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan and President Bush have both advocated a vigorous research and development program for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the U.S. Congress has continued to appropriate more than $4 billion a year for this purpose and the Defense Department is pressing for early deployment of space-based weapons; and

WHEREAS, The skepticism of scientists about feasibility of effective space-based defense has grown, U.S. insistence on developing this system has adversely affected nuclear arms reduction negotiations because the Soviet Union fears the offensive implications, and the enormous cost of deploying such a system would adversely affect allocation of national resources for urgent human needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED We as United Methodists of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference,

1. Call upon the Congress to enact legislation which would prohibit funds for the development, testing, production, and deployment of any space-based weapons, and for the testing of antisatellite (ASAT) weapon whether based on land, sea, air or space.
2. Urge the President to negotiate with the Soviet Union to achieve a permanent, verifiable treaty banning all weapons in space and to begin discussions in the United Nations to extend this space weapons ban to all nations.
3. Call upon our United Methodist members as individuals in the Desert Southwest Conference to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives to work for such legislation and to write to the President urging such actions.

1989.05: Arms Reduction Negotiations
1989 Journal, pp. 34-35

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Council of Bishops in their 1986 pastoral letter and foundation document, In Defense of Creation, stated their support for:
2. The earliest possible negotiation by the United States and the Soviet Union of phased but rapid reduction of nuclear arsenals, accompanied by agreements for parallel nuclear arms reduction by all other nuclear-weapon states.
3. Negotiations to reduce conventional arms, including mutual force reductions in Europe and the arms trade in the Third World.
4. Treaties outlawing the production, possession, and use of chemical and biological weapons; and

WHEREAS, Since the United Methodist Bishops spoke (i) the United States and Soviet Union have negotiated, ratified, and started to implement a treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), (ii) the two superpowers have continued Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), (iii) they have joined with their allies in NATO and the Warsaw Pact to commence negotiations aimed at reducing Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CAFE), (iv) the Soviet Union has announced a unilateral, ten percent reduction of its armed forces, and (v) international negotiations on banning chemical weapons are underway;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as United Methodists we will:
1. Call upon President George Bush to provide creative leadership for prompt and effective negotiations of treaties for both nuclear and conventional arms reduction, to adhere to a strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty of 1972, and to take imaginative but prudent initiatives to pull back U.S. forces from points of confrontation with the intent of encouraging reciprocal actions by the Soviet Union.
2. Call upon President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union to follow through on announced force reduction and withdrawal of forces from Eastern Europe and to cooperate in prompt and effective negotiations of nuclear and conventional arms reduction treaties.
3. Urge United Methodists in the Desert Southwest Conference to write to President Bush and President Gorbachev, encouraging them to provide the leadership necessary for ending military confrontation and moving toward complete nuclear disarmament and substantial reduction of conventional forces.

1989.06: Political Advocate
1989 Journal, p. 35

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church represents a large body of people in the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada; and
WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference addresses the spiritual and temporal needs of all the people of Arizona, California; and Nevada; and
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church needs to speak to the political entities of Arizona, California, and Nevada concerning the issues related to its members;
THEREFORE HE IT RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference develop a coordinated core of volunteer advocates to work on behalf of the people during the sessions of the related Legislatures and that;

1. The Advocates would speak to the issues voted by the Annual Conference.
2. The Advocates would speak in support of the issues included in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.
3. The Advocates would work primarily in the Legislature of Arizona, but would be a liaison person with the Legislatures of California and Nevada on behalf of the United Methodist people living in those states.
4. The Advocates would work in cooperation with the spokespersons from other faith communities.

1989.07: Alcohol as a World Problem
1989 Journal, pp. 35-36

WHEREAS, "In Western Society alcohol is killing people faster than the deadliest wars of all history. Alcohol causes 60 percent of teenage deaths and 50 percent of all highway death." Of the 6,000,000 known alcoholics in the United States, 350,000 will be buried before the year is out. In contrast, Vietnam killed 5,000 yearly.

WHEREAS, Alcohol is the number one drug problem of American Youth. Evidence suggests that problem drinkers start drinking at a younger age than others which may increase the potential for developing alcoholism later. There are 3.3 million young people under the age of 18 who are alcoholics, or serious problem drinkers. One out of every 10 social drinkers will become a problem drinker, or an alcoholic. Besides all the obvious physical and psychological damage, even to the unborn, the "known" cost to the nation is $43 billion a year due to absenteeism, health and welfare services, property damage, and medical expense.

WHEREAS, In our country 65 percent of the murders, 40 percent of assaults, 35 percent of rapes, 30 percent of other sex crimes, 30 percent of suicides, 55 percent of assaults in the home, and 60 percent of the cases of child abuse are attributed to the use of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing awareness and concern relative to the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has addressed the issue in a helpful and stronger way through the Call to Care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The 1989 Desert Southwest Annual Conference direct its Board of Church and Society to continue its growing ministry in the area and provide a stronger program through its standing committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs within its structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

2. the Annual Conference encourage each local church and pastor to work in the following areas:
   a. To encourage the personal policy of abstinence as the most effective method currently available for the prevention of alcohol and drug addiction and other problems related to the use of these substances.
   b. To urge the further development and expanded use of available materials and resources provided through the Call To Care as described on pages 161-167, S.P. 72.1, of the 1988 Book of Resolutions of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, including the establishment of "Covenant Sunday" on the second Sunday of November each year, or other suitable Sunday, with an appropriate period of time before and following to study the problems of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs within the church and within individual
families. A final activity may be a time in worship when families and individuals can sign a covenant card (privately) to be offered to God as their covenant concerning chemical substance abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

3. Every local church be encouraged to make facilities available for use by one or more 12-step programs to promote awareness, prevention, and treatment relative to alcohol and/or other substance concerns.

1989.08: Discrimination and AIDS

WHEREAS, AIDS is a disease that covers the whole spectrum of age, sex, social groups and occupations. WHEREAS, AIDS is a disease that devastates a person with AIDS and their loved ones. WHEREAS, AIDS is a relatively new disease there is much fear, misconception, ignorance, hostility or indifference. These factors have resulted in compounding the problems of those with AIDS and their loved ones.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church work with local authorities, law enforcement, government, and other agencies to:

1. Move toward anonymous AIDS testing.
2. Oppose mandatory testing.
3. End discrimination against individuals who test HIV positive.

1989.09: AIDS and the Ministry of the Local Church

WHEREAS, AIDS is a disease of pandemic proportions. WHEREAS, AIDS is a disease that anyone can acquire; men, women and children, race nationality, religion or socio-economic status. WHEREAS, That people with AIDS, their "significant others", families and friends find themselves overwhelmed by the complexities of the disease and its ramifications. WHEREAS, The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, in their adopted study document, "The Church as a Healing Community and the AIDS Crisis", asserts that Jesus' ministry "challenges the church to reach out through prayers, advocacy, education and direct service to provide care and supportive ministry to persons with AIDS, their families and friends."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage each local church staff to become "AIDS AW ARE" and have available for immediate use, an "AIDS Resource File" to assist persons with AIDS and their significant others, families and friends to find medical and financial assistance, other benefits and support groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. Reaffirm the adoption of Resolutions R.05 and R 18.04 approved by the Desert Southwest Conferences in 1986 and 1988 respectively.

2. Affirm the 1988 General Conference of the United Methodist Church Resolutions SP 71 H AIDS AND HEALING MINISTRY and SP 71 H AIDS EDUCATION

3. Encourage each United Methodist Church of the Desert Southwest Conference to observe an AIDS Awareness Sunday within the next Conference year.
1989.10: Commendations to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev for Taking Initiatives in the Arena of World Peace and Disarmament

WHEREAS, General Secretary Gorbachev was instrumental in signing the INF Treaty with President Reagan in 1987; and
WHEREAS, General Secretary Gorbachev has announced plans for a 10% reduction in Soviet military forces; and
WHEREAS, General Secretary Gorbachev has since assuming Soviet leadership maintained his agreement to withdraw Soviet forces from Afghanistan; and
WHEREAS, General Secretary Gorbachev has announced a unilateral reduction of five hundred (500) nuclear warheads in Eastern Europe;
WHEREAS, General Secretary Gorbachev has called for similar responses for NATO and Western Bloc nations; and
WHEREAS, General Secretary Gorbachev continues to seek arms reductions and world peace through additional Summit meetings with other leaders of governments including President George Bush of the United States;
THEREFORE, We the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA on June 16, 1989, do extend to Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics our appreciation for work in the areas of peace and disarmament
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we additionally pledge ourselves to work with and for similar and responsible responses to these issues from President George Bush and other responsible leaders of our own United States government.
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church extend our greetings, including a copy of this resolution to General Secretary Gorbachev immediately upon the adjournment of this Conference.

1989.12: Vision Interfaith Satellite Network (VISN)

WHEREAS, Desert Southwest Conference deplores the effects of unscrupulous televangelists, and
WHEREAS, Due to deregulation, mainline denominations have lost opportunities for exposure on television and radio through public service announcements and programming, and
WHEREAS, There has now been organized by a broad coalition of mainline Protestant, Orthodox and Episcopal denominations, units of the Roman Catholic Church and Jewish groups an Interfaith Cable-television Network named VISN (pronounced VISION), and
WHEREAS, VISN distributes such programs as Catch the Spirit; Edward Bauman's Bible study, The Meaning of Christ Jesus; Fred Roger's interview series, Old Friends, New Friends; and VISN documentaries on social and ethical issues, and
WHEREAS, The acceptance of this network by local cable systems depends strictly upon the demand by local residents that VISN can be carried;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That this 5th Session of the Desert Southwest Conference calls upon its local churches, pastors and lay leadership to organize local, ecumenical efforts in their communities to persuade local cable operators to add the VISN network to their systems, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Communication facilitate and coordinate efforts to secure placement of VISN on cable system operating within the Desert Southwest Conference.
1990.01: The Tragic Conflicts of Abortion
1990 Journal, p. 32

WHEREAS, Of those issues confronting American Christians today, none appears to have the potential to divide us more bitterly than abortion; and,
WHEREAS, The Body of Christ uniquely upholds the Gospel principle of love over secular law as guide for both individual and societal actions; and,
WHEREAS, Divisive controversy related to totally upholding or denying the legality of abortion frequently forces an absolute position which diverts energies from positive efforts to produce related social justices; i.e., job security, financial support, nutritional programs, counselling, private and state-run crisis pregnancy and child care centers, maternity and paternity leaves and allowances to care for sick children, and programs which promote a healthy understanding of sexuality and contraception, as well as sexual behavior and its physical, emotional and spiritual consequences; and,
WHEREAS, United Methodists have supported the legal option of abortion only in "tragic conflicts of life with life" and rejected abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference asks pastors and local church members to carefully study and implement the opportunities within their communities to develop family measures including parental leave, child care allowances, day care provisions, housing, educational and employment opportunities;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, "We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that warrant abortion. Governmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the informed Christian conscience. Therefore, a division concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel." (from Social Principles of the United Methodist Church).

1990.02: Recycling Waste
1990 Journal, p. 33

WHEREAS, The Bible states -- "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude," (Genesis 1:31-2:1); and,
WHEREAS, The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (70-I) state, "All Creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it", and
WHEREAS: The Social Principles also states, "--we recognize the responsibility of the church toward life style and systemic changes in society that will promote a more ecologically just world and a better quality of life for all creation,"; and,
WHEREAS, Recycling materials saves energy, thus reducing acid rain, global warming and air pollution; and,
WHEREAS, Recycling conserves valuable natural resources; and,
WHEREAS, Recycling cuts down on landfill space needed. Based on current estimates, half of the cities in the United States will run out of landfill space by 1994, according to (Stanford California Fact Sheet distributed by General Board of Church & Society);
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches to purchase recycled paper, reduce the amount of garbage generated by purchasing products with minimal packaging and to provide separate containers for the recycling of bottles, newspapers and aluminum cans; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church provide information about recycling, ozone depletion, global warming to local churches as a guide to their constituencies to foster stewardship and moral responsibility for sustaining the earth; and, 

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference model this resolution by implementing its recommendations for local churches in all Conference and District offices.

1990.03: Middle East Conflict
1990 Journal, p. 33

WHEREAS, in Luke 19: 41 and 42 it says, "When he (Jesus) came in sight of the city he wept over it and said, 'If only you had known, on this great day, the way that leads to peace! But, no, it is hidden from your sight,'"; and, 

WHEREAS, The Middle East is the location of some of the most serious international conflicts facing the world today; and, 

WHEREAS, the area includes the birthplaces of three historically linked religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam; and, 

WHEREAS, integral to the solution of the Middle East conflict is the recognition of the right to self-determination of both the Israeli Jews and the Palestinian Arabs; and, 

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Social Principles state that "the church must regard nationals as accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens and others living within their borders,"; 

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The members of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference pray for peace in the Middle East in personal and corporate worship; and, 

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference urge all leaders of and participants in Holy Land tours, in addition to visits to biblical and historical sites, meet with the United Methodist missionary in Jerusalem requesting meetings with indigenous leaders in Israel and the Occupied Territories to hear the concerns of both Israelis and Palestinians who live there; and, 

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference Board of Church and Society make available to churches and congregations an educational study aimed at helping members understand the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict.

1990.04: Opposing Bigotry and Hate Crimes
1990 Journal, pp. 33-34

WHEREAS, The killing of Yusef Hawkins on August 23, 1989, in Bensonhurst, New York, highlights the continuing legacy of bigoted violence that has victimized the African American community; and, 

WHEREAS, The violation of the civil and constitutional rights of African Americans that occurred in Virginia Beach, Virginia over the Labor Day weekend, 1989, serves as another painful reminder that the majority culture can too readily deny racially/ethnic people rights and opportunities freely enjoyed by European Americans. 

WHEREAS, The murder of Ming Hai Loo (Jimmy Loo) in Raleigh, North Carolina, on July 28, 1989, makes visible the reality that all racial/ethnic people are subject to stereotyping and prejudice and can too easily become the victims of racist attacks, and 

WHEREAS, Three gay men were murdered on January 17, 1987, by neo-Nazi assailants in an adult bookstore in Shelby, N.C., and during 1988, there were more than 7000 incidents of bigoted violence and harassment against gay and lesbian persons, and 

WHEREAS, The incidence of anti-Semitism have greatly increased, and 

WHEREAS, These hate crimes are disproportionately perpetrated by youth,
WHEREAS, The United Methodists of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference are brothers and sisters in Christ and therefore, as Christians throughout the world are to be called to be a people dedicated to a ministry of love. As Jesus' example, we are to be advocates for the unloved and downtrodden, compelled to be agents of reconciliation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urges its churches to:

a. Educate their clergy, and laity about the problem of bigoted violence as well as the nature and scope and influence of organized far-right white-supremacist activity; provide literature, circulate articles, distribute audiovisual materials and disseminate factual information in this subject;

b. Develop training and educational programs for the local church to provide them with strategies, information and techniques for responding to bigoted violence and hate-group activity in their communities;

c. Formulate and distribute guidelines for local clergy that they should employ when confronted with evidence of bigoted violence and hate-group activity;

d. Work with local support groups to publicize the cause of the victims of such attacks and assist the victims of bigoted violence;

e. Pledge themselves to the task of building a social justice movement that is actively anti-racist, multi-cultural and non-violent;

f. Acknowledge the importance of working with children and youth to educate, inform and activate them to resist and counteract bigotry and hate-group activity; and

g. Initiate anti-racism and anti-bias education projects among children and youth in its congregation so that they may find reasons for hope and discover there is a role for them to play in creating a world free from bigotry and fear, and to support the activities of the church in addressing this problem.

RESOURCES:

5. "When Hate Groups Come to Town: A Handbook of Model Community Response," 1986, Center for Democratic Renewal, P.O. Box 50469, Atlanta, GA.30302.

1990.05: In Support of the United Nations

WHEREAS, The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, state: "The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and compassionate and opposing policies and programs which are not" (V. The Political Community, B. Political Responsibility); and,

WHEREAS, The Social Principals of the United Methodist Church, state: "Believing that international justice requires the participation of all peoples, we 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. We commend the efforts of all people in all countries who pursue world peace throughout law" (VI. The World Community, D. Justice and Law); and,

WHEREAS, 159 nations are now members of the United Nations, and non-member send official observers making it the world's most universal organization; and, WHEREAS, The United Nations
provides the Security Council and the office of the Secretary General, internationally acceptable settings in which nations can negotiate peace; and,

WHEREAS, 10,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops and observers from 35 member states are monitoring compliance with peace agreements in seven locations (India-Pakistan border; Jerusalem; Lebanon; Golan Heights between Syria and Israel; Cyprus; Afghanistan; Iran-Iraq border) [1]; and,

WHEREAS, New UN-involved peace plans for Namibia, Western Sahara, Kampuchea, and Central America are in various stages of implementation, from now being organized to now being requested which will required additional funding [2]; and,

WHEREAS, The United States has accepted treaty obligations to pay our assessed dues to the United Nations and our share for UN peacekeeping; and,

WHEREAS, The United States remains $475 million behind in payments to the United Nation and $65 million in arrears for UN peacekeeping assessments [3];

THEREFORE, In keeping with our Social Principles, BE IT RESOLVED THAT We stand in support of full-payment of United States assessments to the United Nations for on-going programs and for UN peacekeeping; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, We urge our national leaders to commit an amount equal to one percent of each year's U.S. defense budget to support the UN peacekeeping forces; and that the United States government call upon all other United Nations member-nations to commit an amount equal to one percent of their respective defense budgets to support the UN peacekeeping forces; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Conference send this resolution to President George Bush, to Secretary of State, James Baker III, and to our elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

RESOURCES

1990.06: Gambling
1990 Journal, pp. 35-36

WHEREAS, The incidence of gambling in many forms is rapidly growing throughout the area served by our Annual Conference; and,

WHEREAS, Many facets of gambling are going beyond the concept of recreational activities and have become increasingly promoted as valid options for the raising of revenue for social programs; and,

WHEREAS, The burden of gambling falls heavily upon the segment of society least able to expend finances in such a manner; and,

WHEREAS, The various forms of gambling, including casino action, sports books, and state lotteries, are being promoted as the acceptable way to gain wealth and also to avoid legitimate taxation; and,

WHEREAS, The United Method Church, and its predecessors, has always been strongly opposed to gambling in any form; and,

WHEREAS, The current Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state: "Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic and spiritual life, and destructive of good government. As an act, of faith and love, Christians should abstain from gambling, and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice... Community standards and personal life styles
should be such as would make unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial gambling, including public lotteries, as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference urge United Methodists throughout the Conference to refrain from engaging in any and all forms of gambling; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That every congregation establish a study of the "Gambling/Lotteries " booklet of the series entitled FAITHFUL WITNESS ON TODAY'S ISSUES, (available through Discipleship Resources, 1908 Grand Ave., Box 189, Nashville, TN, 37202, No. CS215); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That every member and every congregation refrain from promoting gambling in any form as an acceptable means of raising the revenues necessary to sustain the valid functions of government at any level; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That every member and every congregation seek to help the various entities of government in reversing the trend toward legalizing gambling ventures.

1990.07: Services to the Chronically Mentally Ill

WHEREAS, The social principles of the United Methodist Church "recognize and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all individuals as members of the family of God: ... affirm the responsibility of the church and society to be in ministry with all persons, including those persons with mentally, physically. and/or psychologically handicapping conditions .... (and) call "the church and society to be sensitive to, and advocate programs of rehabilitation, services, employment, education .... "; and

WHEREAS, The States of Arizona and Nevada rank behind all those other states in per capita spending for services to the chronically mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, The wholesale deinstitutionalization of severely mentally ill persons during the 1970's and 1980's without the availability of adequate community mental systems has been a dominant source of homelessness in this nation; and

WHEREAS, Appropriate psychiatric and rehabilitative services not only enhance the personal and spiritual wholeness of mentally ill persons but also enable such persons to become productive and self-reliant members of the society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage its member churches to:

1. Petition the cities, counties, and states of this Conference and the federal government to increase public spending to a level that will enable community mental health agencies and other care systems to provide adequate therapeutic and rehabilitative services to the chronically mentally ill and,

2. Participate actively in helping communities to meet both preventive and therapeutic needs related to mental illness by:
   a. Informing their members in a responsible and comprehensive manner about the nature of the mental health problems facing society today; and,
   b. Involving community mental health agency clients and psychiatric hospital patients in congregational programs and activities; and,
   c. Actively supporting crisis intervention, counseling, and shelter services to chronically mentally ill persons.

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1990.08: Celebration Fund; A United Methodist Response to Hunger and Homelessness
1990 Journal, pp. 36-37

WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are almost 10,500 homeless people in the state of Arizona, and 4,000 homeless in Clark County, Nevada, on any given day; and,
WHEREAS, In Arizona alone, 475,000 men, women, and children and in Nevada there are 115,000 persons who live at or below the poverty line, only half of whom receive any government assistance in the form of food stamps; and,
WHEREAS, We are caring Christians and compassionate people find this reality intolerable and are unable to sit idly by as passive witnesses to hunger, homelessness and suffering; and,
WHEREAS, The abundance of blessings which we have received leads us to a sense of gratitude and a desire to share those blessings with others; and,
WHEREAS, Our Jewish brothers and sisters have shown us a way to respond to the needs of others, establishing a fund based on contributions made in honor of family and religious celebrations, thereby upholding the Judeo-Christian tradition of sharing the joy of our festive occasions with those less fortunate than we;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
1. A Celebration Fund be established for the Desert Southwest Conference, to be administered by the Conference Board of Church and Society;
2. Every United Methodist be encouraged to donate to this fund 3% of the cost of all family and religious celebrations;
3. These funds be distributed to assist the hungry and homeless within the Desert Southwest Conference;
4. All funds be distributed promptly to appropriate services as selected by the Conference Board of Church & Society;
5. The Board of Church and Society report annually to the Conference on funds received and distributions made;
6. Every pastor and local Chair of Church and Society promote this 3% giving with and among members of their congregations.
7. IN CONCLUSION, We give because we find joy in sharing, and we know that collectively our gifts will make a difference for the victims of this tragic reality. "If you feed the hungry from your own plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then you light will rise like the dawn and your dusk be like noonday ... " (Isaiah 58:10).

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1 Arizona State Departments of Commerce and Economic Security
2 "Poverty in the State of Nevada"

1990.11: Disability Awareness and Advocacy Sunday
1990 Journal, p. 37

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities are called to be faithful servants in the ministry of Jesus Christ in much the same way as their able-bodied peers; and,
WHEREAS, Despite various physical and mental challenges, persons with disabilities share gifts of nurturing as well as being nurtured; of giving as well as receiving; of actively participating in ministry rather than always being viewed as recipients of ministry; and,
WHEREAS, During the 1976-1980 quadrennium, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church appointed the Task Force on Ministry with Persons with Handicapping Conditions to study and
research issues of structural accessibility, inclusive forms of ministries and theological considerations relevant to mental and physical disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, It is the consensus of the Desert Southwest Conference Committee on Ministry with Persons with Handicapping Conditions that all Desert Southwest United Methodist congregations should strive toward increased awareness and acceptance of persons with disabilities;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, The Third Sunday in October of each year be designated as Disability Awareness and Advocacy Sunday in the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church and that this date be so indicated in the official 1991 United Methodist Program Calendar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, All United Methodist members be challenged to engage in careful thought, intentional prayer, and loving action to overcome as many barriers, both architectural and attitudinal, to handicapped people as possible within the body of Christ and the secular community.

1990.12: Commendation of the Arizona Governor and Legislature

1990 Journal, p. 37

WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference and its predecessor conference have repeatedly called on the Arizona Legislature and Governor to enact a paid state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, In spite of tremendous organized opposition, both the Governor and the Arizona Legislature have shown exemplary leadership by enacting into a law a state holiday, and

WHEREAS, We are reminded to lift up good deeds; and,

WHEREAS, We have historically communicated our positions on the King Holiday to Arizona's legislative leaders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference congratulate Arizona Governor Rose Mofford and the members of the 36th Arizona Legislature for their decisive leadership in enacting a King Holiday; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Conference Secretary be directed to communicate the Annual Conference's support for their leadership to Governor Mofford and the 90 members of the Arizona Legislature.

1991.02: Program for Substance Abuse Offenders

1991 Journal, p. 36

WHEREAS, in recent years Arizona and Nevada have enacted more stringent laws with regard to substance abuse related crimes, as well as mandatory-sentencing laws, resulting in rapidly rising rates of incarceration, now among the nation's highest; and

WHEREAS, some alcohol- and drug-related treatment programs have been proven effective in empowering persons to overcome their patterns of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of persons immured in jails and prisons due to alcohol- and drug-related offenses are unable to be placed in treatment programs, due to the desperate lack of facilities, personnel, and funding; and

WHEREAS, persons not receiving treatment while incarcerated for such offenses show a very high incidence of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, this results in extreme pressure upon the criminal justice system in all aspects, and society continues to build more detention facilities at great cost, with no prospect of any end to this downward spiral;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church supports and strongly urges legislation and funding to advance the rapid expansion of proper
treatment programs in county jails and state prisons for alcohol- and drug-related problems, with full funding to provide sufficient well-trained personnel with all necessary facilities and materials, so that all sentenced inmates who apply will have prompt access to appropriate treatment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governors and legislators of Arizona, California and Nevada by the Conference Secretary.

1991.03: Compensation for Arizona Legislators
1991 Journal, p. 36

WHEREAS, citizens of Arizona are intensely conscious of the disrepute in which their state’s legislature currently stands, and believe that they deserve a legislature which is regarded with respect for its professionalism and integrity; and
WHEREAS, states which compensate their legislators properly are states which have competent, effective legislators, and are representative of all social, economic, groups and religions; and
WHEREAS, Arizona’s legislators currently are paid $15,000 per year, an amount which is not regarded as compensation for full-time professional work:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church is in full support of the legislators’ need for an increase to $25,000 per year, and support a referendum to effect such action; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Arizona Legislators by the Conference Secretary.

1991.05: Recycling Waste
1991 Journal, p. 36

WHEREAS, scientists tell us that unless we start immediately to protect the ozone layer around the earth, which protects us from harmful ultra violet rays, by the year 2050, much of North America will be desert; and
WHEREAS, continued ozone decline could lead to an increase in skin cancer, immune system depressions, reduced crop yields, depleted marine fisheries, and increase in smog; and
WHEREAS, the use of some styrofoam cups and products contributes to the destruction of the ozone by releasing chemicals which when they reach the ozone level combine with one of the oxygen atoms of the ozone resulting in the change of ozone into oxygen.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches in the Conference not to use products that release chlorofluorcarbons (CFCs). In making this choice, churches can choose options which are more ecologically safe, such as paper items and washable cups and dishes. Churches are encouraged to use recycled paper products, reduce mini packaged goods, to provide separate containers for recycling bottles, newspapers, aluminum cans. All churches are to call their local governments for information.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference model this recommendation by discontinuing the use of products that release chlorofluorcarbons and encourage the use of recycled paper products and mini packaged goods.

1991.07: Bringing the Annual Conference Session to Yuma, Arizona in 1992
1991 Journal, p. 37

WHEREAS, 1992 is the centennial year of the Methodist Ministry in Yuma; and
WHEREAS, our still young Annual Conference is not immovably entrenched in any one location; and
WHEREAS, the United Methodists of the Yuma area are enthusiastic about the possibility of hosting the
Annual Conference Session in 1992 and beyond, and the City of Yuma is eager to welcome us; and
WHEREAS, outstanding facilities are available at a remarkably low cost, and lodging and food are of good
quality, affordable and convenient;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference locate the 1992 Annual
Conference Session at the Yuma Civic and Convention Center, in Yuma, Arizona.

1991.08: For Vision Interfaith Satellite Network
1991 Journal, p. 37
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church through its General Commission Communication was a
founder and continues in full participation in the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network (VISN); and
WHEREAS, VISN has grown since its founding in 1988 to provide a direct ministry and witness to viewers
in nearly every state across the nation through 24 hours of programming daily; and
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church is one of 27 members representing 24 Protestant, Roman
Catholic, Jewish and Eastern Orthodox faith groups in support of VISN; and
WHEREAS, VISN now serves as a national outlet each week for more than 12 hours (24 half hours and
numerous public service spots) of United Methodist related programming, including the weekly
"Catch the Spirit" magazine format show; and
WHEREAS, VISN allows no on-air fund raising, no attacks on other faith groups, and no proselytizing by
one group to members of another faith group; and
WHEREAS, VISN offers 14 hours of local pre-emption time per week for United Methodists and other
local faith groups to present their own ministries and witness at a community level; and
WHEREAS, VISN can inspire and motivate persons to become active again or in new ways in their own
congregations as well as help to create a spirit of tolerance, acceptance, understanding and trust
among the faith groups within the community; and
WHEREAS, VISN is now supported by the faith groups and the cable industry but must reach 15 million
households to become self-supporting;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist
Church endorses the VISN cable network; and
Urges our pastors and laypersons to take the initiative in their communities to work with
other religious leaders in securing VISN for our communities; and
Urges our pastors and laypersons to support the production and airing of local programs for
VISN; and
Urges our pastors and laypersons to actively support and invite people to view VISN once it
is available in the community and to utilize it creatively as a resource of mission and witness within
our own congregations and within the community.

1991.09: Arab-Israeli Conflict
WHEREAS, we are concerned about the aftermath of the Persian Gulf conflict and especially the
heightening of tensions and hostilities generated by the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians,
and
WHEREAS, we pray that the government of Israel and the Palestinians will enter into negotiations over
legitimate concerns of both, rather than pursuing methods of retaliation; and
WHEREAS, Jesus has commanded us to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9),
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon the President of the United States, President Bush, to take the initiative in promoting and participating in multilateral negotiations for peace in the Middle East, including all parties involved in the conflict as well as permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Desert Southwest Conference congregations take the following actions:

1. Pray for peace in the Middle East in both personal and group prayers.
2. Write to President Bush and members of Congress urging our government's promotion and participation in multilateral negotiations on this conflict. Avoid stereotyping Arabs and Jews or labeling them in a negative way.
3. Call for the protection of civil liberties and welfare of Arab-American and Jews who might be at risk of discrimination.
4. Contribute to humanitarian aid to refugees through such organizations as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).
5. Urge the General Boards of Church and Society and of Global Ministries and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to develop and disseminate educational materials which aim to help United Methodists understand the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
6. Seek opportunities in local churches to develop a deeper understanding of the beliefs and cultures of Muslims and Jews.

1991.13*: Reconciling/Transforming Congregations

WHEREAS, Christians are called to "be reconciled one to another"; and
WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United Methodist Church states that "The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the Church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity, and therefore it will seek, and work for, unity at all levels of church life ... "; and
WHEREAS, the General Conference in 1988 adopted the Consultation on Church Union Consensus, recognizing the apostolic understanding that baptism with water effects or signifies the union of the one baptized with Christ, and in Christ with all members of his body, and thus is our basic bond of unity; and
WHEREAS, on the basis of our unity in baptism, the United Methodist Church has committed itself "to be in ministry for and with all persons" (¶ 71f, 1988 Book of Discipline); and
WHEREAS, the COCU Consensus sets forth our conviction that members of the Church fail as Christ's ambassadors in reconciling the world to God if we have not been reconciled to one another; and
WHEREAS, the church's response to homosexuals has too often been uninformed, unreflective, uncaring and unwelcoming; and
WHEREAS, most United Methodists have not seriously studied the issues surrounding homosexuality in an open-minded fashion; and
WHEREAS, reconciling congregations and transforming congregations are two programs of different perspectives designed to respond to this situation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage all churches within its bounds to make contact with both Reconciling and Transforming Congregations, review their materials and take whatever steps they deem appropriate as local congregations.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that recognizing our need for learning and growth in the area of human sexuality, the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church approves a
Conference-wide study on human sexuality to be offered throughout our Conference and completed by May of 1993.

To facilitate this study it is recommended that a task force of nine persons design the curriculum and train the Conference study leaders.

It is further recommended that this task force consist of a representative from the Conference Boards of Church and Society, Status and Role of Women, Ethnic Minority Ministries, Age Level Board, Young Adult, District Superintendent, and three at-large members appointed by the Bishop.

This study is to be offered in the following areas: Tucson, Phoenix, East Valley, Flagstaff, Yuma, and Las Vegas.

[*Editor’s Note: Resolutions 13 and 12 were combined with Resolution 12 amended to the end of Resolution 13.]*

**1991.15: Young Persons’ Worship At Annual Conference**

*1991 Journal, pp. 38-39*

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ called the children unto himself; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church seeks to confirm youth as full members of congregations with all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities inherent therein; and

WHEREAS, both the *Book of Discipline* (¶ 35, and 701.3,.4,.5) and the Rules of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference (II.i.2.b) are very deliberate in providing for the participation of youth young adults as lay members of the Annual Conference, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities inherent therein; and

WHEREAS, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) and the several District Councils on Youth Ministries (DCYM) have worked to bring responsible youth into leadership in the Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, this session of the Annual Conference passed recommendation 17.01 concerning inclusiveness and "a church free from the prejudice, racism, sexism, ageism, or discrimination ... ";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the creation of the Young Persons' Worship Service, (i.e. the music, the liturgy and the preaching) at each session of this Annual Conference hereafter, be planned by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries with consultation with the Resident Bishop and with the Sessions Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the leadership of the young persons worship service at Annual Conference be only youth or those adults designated by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

**1992.01: Supporting Anita Hill’s Stand Against Sexual Harassment; Professor Anita Hill’s position at the University of Oklahoma School of Law**

*1992 Journal, p. 35*

WHEREAS, During the 1991 Supreme Court Judicial nomination hearings, Professor Hill, a University of Oklahoma Law Professor, questioned Clarence Thomas' fitness to be a United States Supreme Court Justice by accusing him of sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, Professor Hill exhibited immense integrity and bravery in testifying before a solely and often openly hostile male body and in bringing to the surface an issue which had adversely affected many women who have not spoken up out of fear of retaliation, job loss or other reasons; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Leonard Sullivan (R-Oklahoma City) has charged Professor Hill with lying and misconduct during the Judiciary Committee hearings and is attempting to have her removed from her job;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference send a letter to Professor Hill commending her for her brave actions in speaking up and the resultant public awareness of sexual harassment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference send a letter to President Richard Van Horn of the University of Oklahoma informing him of our support for Professor Hill and our conviction that she acted courageously and with integrity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference send a letter to Representative Leonard Sullivan indicating our support for Professor Hill’s actions and belief that any action on his part to endanger Professor Hill’s job is totally unwarranted and reprehensible.

1992.02: The Church’s Response to Choice on Abortion
1992 Journal, pp. 35-36

WHEREAS, We as Christians called United Methodists are always on the side of human rights. But, in the case of abortion, we find ourselves in a dilemma. It is not clear to us whose human rights are being violated. We are unclear, or not in agreement when in the development process we become a human being. Consequently, we are unclear when abortion violates the human rights of the unborn, or not having the freedom to have an abortion violates the human rights of a woman to have control over her person and her own life. We believe United Methodists are a people of conscience, who do not take this issue or any issue lightly. We believe United Methodists are people who take their faith walk with God very seriously and always strive to do what is right. So it is easily understood why there is such a passion and conviction to this issue. However, once a person has made their choice, it is our calling to foster and protect their rights of a human being.

WHEREAS, We Christians called United Methodists are always on the side of human rights but, in the case of abortion, find ourselves in a dilemma because it is not clear to us whose human rights are being violated, and

WHEREAS, we are not in agreement when in the developmental process one becomes a human being and, consequently, we are unclear when abortion violates the human rights of the unborn or when not having the freedom to have an abortion violates the human right of a woman to have control over her person and her own life, and

WHEREAS, we believe United Methodist are a people of conscience who do not take this issue or any issue lightly, and who take their faith walk with God very seriously and always strive to do what is right, making it understandable why there is such a passion and conviction to this issue, and

WHEREAS, once a person has make a choice, it is our calling to foster and protect her rights as a human being, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, If a woman chooses her legal option to have an abortion, we will be supportive of her and minister to her as we are called to do as the church. We will not be condemning of her, adding to the difficulty of what already may have been one of the hardest decisions of her life.

BE IT RESOLVED, If a woman decides that abortion is not something she can do, but does not feel she wants to keep the child, we will try to help her become informed of the different options opened to her; e.g., adoption, foster care.

BE IT RESOLVED, We as a church will support programs such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and subsidized preschools to assist any family that faces an economic burden with the birth of another child. We will do all that we can to ensure every human being has the best quality start they can receive in life.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we support a strong education program on safe and effective birth-control, so hopefully we can prevent, to the best of our ability, as many women as possible from having to face this most difficult of decisions.
1992.03: District of Columbia Statehood
1992 Journal, p. 36
WHEREAS, The American Revolution was declared, citing the principle, "taxation without representation is tyranny".
WHEREAS, There are nearly 650,000 taxpaying American citizens in the District of Columbia who have no federal voting representation in Congress.
WHEREAS, "District of Columbia residents pay over a billion dollars annual in federal taxes - more total federal taxes than eight states. The per capita tax payment for the District of Columbia is $500 above the national average - a payment higher than 49 states." (Christian Social Action, November, 1991)
WHEREAS, The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church calls for full citizen participation in our government.
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church's General Conference in 1980 adopted a resolution in support of full voting federal representation for the residents of the District of Columbia. And in so doing, the church rightfully acknowledged that the relationship between the District of Columbia and the federal government violates our national heritage.
WHEREAS, Statehood for the District does not require a constitutional amendment and ratification by the states but only a simple majority vote in the House and Senate and the President's signature.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference be in full support of the statehood of the District of Columbia, standing for rightful representation of the citizens of the District of Columbia.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Desert Southwest Conference send a copy of this resolution to the House and Senate members of the U.S. Congress of Arizona, California and Nevada.

1992.04: Universal Health Care
1992 Journal, p. 36
WHEREAS, there is a generally recognized crisis in health care in the United States of America:
Two important manifestations of the crisis being:
1) The widespread unavailability of health insurance (and therefore, of access to basic health care and preventive services) to a large and growing segment of our population;
2) The rapidly increasing costs of health care in our country which is the largest percentage of the Gross National Product in the world.
AND WHEREAS, the United States and South Africa are the only two countries in the developed world to have no universal health care system; and
WHEREAS, the current system of health care in the United States represents de facto rationing in which the excluded are primarily the poor and underprivileged which are disproportionately represented by women, children and members of minority ethnic groups; and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church stands as an advocate for the poor and disenfranchised around the world as affirmed in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, Christians are called to care for "the least of these" as manifesting Jesus Christ in our midst;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church supports rapid and courageous enactment of a health care system by the Congress of the United States which would assure access to basic health care and preventive services for every individual in this country;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this system raises no impediments because of financial, language and/or cultural limitations.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Conference Board of Church and Society present copies of this resolution to the federal representatives of the three states, Arizona, California and Nevada, and to the President of the United States.

1992.05: Support of Mental Health Funding in the State of Nevada

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is committed to serve those fellow human beings in need. We as a people of faith are called to speak out to the injustices imposed upon our sisters and brothers, whether through individuals, organizations or governments; and

WHEREAS, the mental health of each person is an essential part of their whole being. While the church reaches out and endeavors to minister to those with mental handicaps, it is not equipped financially, or with the expertise to assist those with severe mental problems; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has consistently rated in the last quartile of the United States for state supported mental health care; and has repeatedly underfunded support for both facilities and personnel in the State Mental Health Department of the Human Resources Division; and

WHEREAS, in January 1992, Governor of the State of Nevada, citing decreased revenue and budget deficits, closed rural and satellite facilities, reduced program support and dismissed personnel from the State's Mental Health Department, thereby, further diminishing the State's poor standing in it's treatment of the mentally ill.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church contact by way of this resolution, Governor Robert J. Miller as well as each and every State Assemblyperson and State Senator within the State of Nevada expressing their distress at the budget cuts to the State of Nevada Mental Health Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference hold each of those contacted accountable for the well-being of the clients of the Mental Health System; and charge these elected officials with restoring full funding of the previous level of the Mental Health Department in their 1993-1995 biennial budget.

1992.06: Motor Vehicle Fuel Economy

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Richard Bryan (D-Nevada) introduced legislation in 1990 and 1991 which would increase the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) of motor vehicles from approximately 27.5 miles per gallon to 40 miles per gallon:

WHEREAS, the combustion of one gallon of gasoline produces approximately 19 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂);

WHEREAS, over 50% of the calculated global increase of temperature (known as enhancement of the greenhouse effect) is attributed to increases in global concentrations of carbon dioxide;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryan's proposal would decrease new car emissions of CO₂ by 40%;

WHEREAS, motor vehicles in the United States account for approximately 35% of U.S. CO₂ emissions;

WHEREAS, most western countries support the goal of capping year 2000 CO₂ emissions from all sources of fossil fuel combustion at the year 1990 levels;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryan's proposals have been rejected by Congress. We are mindful of the safety issues espoused by his opponents, smaller vehicles that would be manufactured to meet stricter mileage requirements may have a higher risk of injury and loss of life, but this can be mitigated by better driving habits, seatbelts and air bags;

WHEREAS, the Bible teaches us to be stewards of our natural resources;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference supports Mr. Bryan's and other congressional efforts to increase the CAFE standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference encourages its members to purchase vehicles with enhanced fuel economy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Board of Church and Society be directed to send copies of this resolution to all Congressional representatives of Arizona, Nevada and California, and to the Chief Executive Officers of the major automotive companies doing business in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the research and development of the use of alternate energy sources for motor vehicles.

1992.07: Electricity in the Desert Southwest

WHEREAS, scientists have measured a significant increase in global temperature in the past century,
WHEREAS, concern has emerged that this increase may not be part of a natural cycle (to be succeeded by a similar cooling period), but that this increase has resulted from the global accumulation of heat absorbing gases including carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and methane. Additional carbon dioxide is the major source of the increase in heat absorbing gases.
WHEREAS, the possible consequences of a significant increase in heat absorbing gases, also known as the enhancement of the greenhouse effect, are global climate changes with unpredictable changes in local ecological balances. The greenhouse effect is a natural resource which is necessary for a living environment; But an enhancement of the effect would alter the natural balance of heat entering and leaving the planet.
WHEREAS, the exercising of humanity's dominion over the earth, plant and animal life, includes responsible stewardship of our natural resources, such as the natural greenhouse effect, in a manner similar to how a good shepherd cares for his flock.
WHEREAS, a consequence of maintaining comfortable living conditions in homes and businesses in the Desert Southwest Conference area is that these homes and businesses are equipped with electrically powered air conditioning systems.
WHEREAS, most electricity in the Desert Southwest area is generated by the burning of fossil fuels; coal, oil and natural gas. The burning of these fuels releases significant amounts of carbon dioxide. These fuels all contain carbon molecules; when burned these molecules combine with oxygen in the air and form carbon dioxide. A pound of coal when burned results in 2.5 pounds of carbon dioxide. A pound of coal supplies approximately one kilowatt hour of electricity which is roughly equal to the energy used on residential air conditioning system in 30 minutes during the summer.
WHEREAS, additional electrical power plants are being built to replace aging units and to provide for population growth in the Desert Southwest
WHEREAS, non-fossil fuel sources of power are available, in appropriate locations, such as solar, geothermal, and wind; which do not result in the release of carbon dioxide. These non-fossil fuel power sources typically have higher capital costs than the traditional power sources and likely will result in higher consumer costs for electricity. Despite the possible higher near term cost of non-fossil fuel sources, global climate change resulting from fossil fuel power could be very costly, with respect to crops, animals and human survival.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches in the Conference to contact their appropriate public officials and urge the officials to require that new electrical generating plants use non-fossil fuel sources of power, other than fission nuclear, to the maximum extent possible. The proper stewardship of our natural resources compels us to urge this
action. The contact with public officials involves letter writing, attending and participating in public hearings, and educating fellow church members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Conference will encourage other conferences, both in this nation and other nations, to assert a similar stewardship role.

1992.08: Against the Unchristian Act of Hating


WHEREAS, Christian Ethics has traditionally been a discipline that tried to take the "Gospel" and determine Christian actions, stances and responses to the events taking place in our world. Today, Christian Ethics seems to be heading down a different path. This path seems to believe it is more important to develop a right character than trying to determine the proper Christian stance. The wisdom is, if we develop a proper character, the appropriate decisions will follow. The character we are asked to develop is love, which is a combination of special personality traits.

WHEREAS, Those traits may best be stated in the Book of Colossians, Chapter 3, Verses 12-14:

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

WHEREAS, As we can see, hate is not one of the personality traits that make up this loving character. In fact, earlier in this same chapter in Colossians it is implied it is a trait we should get rid of in our lives. In verses 7-11, Paul says:

"These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things --anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In the renewal, there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all."

WHEREAS, We in the church can see we have our work cut out for us. Statistics show that acts of violence based upon prejudice, anti-Semitism and bigotry, other words for hate crimes, are dramatically rising. We can see the feelings of intolerance growing in our nation as we hear about and see in bashing various groups of people (i.e., "Japan Bashing," "Israel Bashing," "President Bashing," "Congress Bashing," "Gay Bashing," and "Racial Bashing," eg).

WHEREAS, We recognize that much of this behavior and the fostering of these feelings are done by the use of fear. We see people are encouraged to hate and be intolerant and blame others because they may take away our lifestyle, or because they live a different lifestyle than our own. It seems that any fear-generating tactic is a stepping stone to hate, which may explain why it says in I John 4:18a:

'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment."

WHEREAS, We in the church must now ask ourselves a very hard but probing question, and as Paul says, we must "not lie to one another." But most of all, we must not lie to ourselves. We must ask ourselves if the stance we have taken on the issue of homosexuality has helped to promote the prejudice and the fear people experience against homosexual persons. We must ask ourselves if our stance promotes hate crimes.

WHEREAS, It appears that when the church speaks out against groups of people, and says they and their actions are against the will and teachings of God, individuals then uses those statements as a license to hate, demean and dehumanize. One only need look at the abortion issue to see the outcome of the church's preaching of judgment and intolerance. Christians felt they were given a mandate to do such things as burn down clinics where abortions were performed. Christians felt they had not only
a divine right but a divine mandate to stand outside these clinics and torment women by calling them murderers. One can only guess how much more pain these people added to an already difficult time in the lives of these women.

WHEREAS, Now we see the same attitudes and pronouncements coming from the church about people who have a homosexual or lesbian orientation. They are not helped to experience the "Christ who is all and in all," but are dehumanized and pushed to the outer limits of our society, while being pushed right out the door of the church.

WHEREAS, Since hate, intolerance, slander, prejudice and bigotry are incompatible with Christian teachings because they do not build a loving character, and seeing our teachings may actually foster hate, and may prevent us from living the new life in Christ Paul calls us to in his letter to the church in Colossae.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, We as the Desert Southwest Annual Conference recognize the full humanity and rights of personhood for all peoples, regardless of their race, gender, age or sexual orientation, for there is no room for prejudice or bigotry toward any group in our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, We live by our own votes and implement Resolution 18.04 passed our 1990 Annual Conference which calls us to Oppose Bigotry and Hate Crimes.

1992.09: A Day at the Arizona State Legislature

Submitted by: United Methodist Outreach Ministries, Inc. and Tucson Metropolitan Ministries

WHEREAS, The Arizona State Legislature helps determine the social, economic and physical well-being of the constituents of the State of Arizona; and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church needs to have an active voice in this process;
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has had a long history of creative dialogue with government officials and entities; and
WHEREAS, there is need to develop a legislative liaison between the United Methodist Church, the Arizona Legislature, and the Legislative Districts; and
WHEREAS, there is a need for United Methodists to meet their Legislators; and
WHEREAS, United Methodist Outreach Ministries and Tucson Metropolitan Ministries jointly agree to facilitate a process for this to take place;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual conference of the United Methodist Church proclaim a day in early February 1993 as "A Day with the Arizona State Legislature" in which all United Methodist Clergy and Diaconal Ministers in Arizona will be invited by the Resident Bishop and Judge Frank X. Gordon, former Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, to participate in a one day workshop to learn the legislative process, have an opportunity to meet their legislators, participate in a legislative session, and develop a liaison between local churches and the Legislature.

1992.10: The Greater Phoenix Luis Palau Crusade

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the church is to preach and share the Good News in order that all may hear; and
WHEREAS, evangelism in the church occurs in many forms which includes both word and practice by its believers; and
WHEREAS, foundations are now being laid for the Greater Phoenix Luis Palau Crusade for October 8th through November 1st at the America West Arena; and
WHEREAS, Luis Palau has spoken to nine million people in nearly 60 nations and to many others by the use of radio and television and is equally at ease in both English and Spanish; and
WHEREAS, some local United Methodist Churches are already participating in the pre-crusade preparations; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church supports the Greater Phoenix Luis Palau Crusade; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local United Methodist churches be encouraged to participate in the Crusade from October 28th through November 1st, as well as provide help or assistance in the pre-crusade preparations as may be deemed appropriate for that particular local church. (The crusade office is located at 2001 North Third Street, Suite 212, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, Phone 258-7515)

1992.11: Alcohol Advertising Legislation
1992 Journal, p. 40
PURPOSE: To prevent alcohol-related problems by requiring prominent health and safety warning information in all alcohol beverage advertising and promotional materials.
WHEREAS, one of ten key recommendations from the Surgeon General's Workshop on alcohol problems calls for matching the level of alcoholic beverage advertising with equivalent exposure for pro-health and pro-safety messages.
WHEREAS, four out of every ten American adults have been exposed to alcoholism in his or her family. (National Center for Health Statistics, 1991).
WHEREAS, two out of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash during their lifetimes. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1991).
WHEREAS, nearly 5,000 babies are born with fetal alcohol syndrome each year, while another 36,000 infants are born with fetal alcohol effects every year. (Alcohol Health and Research World, 1985).
WHEREAS, a June, 1991, Inspector General's Report on Alcohol and Youth found that students lack essential knowledge about alcohol and its effects and that advertisements for alcohol beverages influence students' perceptions about alcohol.
WHEREAS, a 1990 study, funded by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, revealed a significant relationship between exposure and attention to TV beer advertising and a child's expectations to drink.
WHEREAS, an April 1990 Advertising Age/Gallup poll found that almost three-quarters (73.5%) of the public favors health and safety messages in alcohol advertising.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference correspond with members of the Senate and House of Representatives from Arizona; California, and Nevada indicating endorsement of legislation requiring alcoholic beverage advertising and promotional materials whether printed, broadcast, or televised, to carry one of five health and safety warning messages on a rotating basis as regulated by the Federal Trade Commission:
1. SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Drinking during pregnancy may cause mental retardation and other birth defects. A void alcohol during pregnancy.
2. WARNING: Alcohol impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.
3. WARNING: Alcohol may be hazardous if you are using any other drugs such as over-the-counter, prescription, or illicit drugs.
4. WARNING: Drinking alcohol may become addictive.
5. WARNING: It's against the law to purchase alcohol for persons under the age of 21.
1992.12: Recognition of Retired Clergy and their surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers and their relationship to Annual Conference Sessions

WHEREAS, all clergy of The United Methodist Church are members of an Annual Conference (1988 Book of Discipline ¶ 412) and remain in full connection when appointed to the Retired Relationship, and are required to fulfill their faithful duties as clergy of The United Methodist Church, including participation at Annual Conference sessions and serving on various Annual Conference Boards and Agencies when elected; and
WHEREAS, the Annual Conference has received great strength from the valued leadership of these retired clergy in the past; and
WHEREAS, the majority of retired clergy and Diaconal Ministers do not have a relationship with a local parish which includes remuneration for present services, although most are active in the congregations of which they are a part through visitation, teaching, and other pastoral duties; and
WHEREAS, many retired clergy and surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers continue to give valued service to the Annual Conference through membership on Conference Boards and Agencies; and
WHEREAS, retired clergy and surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers are living on a reduced level of income in comparison to employed clergy, often finding it difficult to add expenses to their budget, such as the full cost of attending Annual Conference sessions without the benefit of local church reimbursement;

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Annual Conference recognizes the contributions of its retired clergy and surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers of the past with great appreciation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Annual Conference include in its recognition of the retired clergy and Diaconal Ministers the full membership they hold in the fellowship, including the attendance of the retired clergy and surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers at the sessions of the Annual Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Annual Conference instruct the Council on Finance and Administration to include in the Budget of the 1994 Annual Conference session, and all subsequent years, an amount negotiated for the cost of food, lodging and travel for those retired clergy and surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers who attend the Annual Conference Session. For those living outside the bounds of the Annual Conference, the cost of travel will be calculated from the closest point of entry into the Conference boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no registration fee shall be charge to retired clergy and surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers.

1992.13: Capital Punishment

WHEREAS, the residents of Arizona and California, have witnessed the restoration of capital punishment in their states during the past several months; and
WHEREAS, the residents of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church have witnessed the restoration of capital punishment throughout the United States; and
WHEREAS, statistics provide grounds of support that there is no correlation between punishment and deterrence of crimes, research analyzing the relationship between crime and punishment provides no conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters violent crimes.
WHEREAS, there is evidence that lengthy trials and appeal procedures necessary to convict the actual criminal and avoid the execution of an innocent criminal nullifies the arguments of those who consider financial costs of incarceration in prisons; and
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church in 1980 and reaffirmed in 1984 and 1988 by General Conference: "The United Methodist Church cannot accept retribution or social vengeance as a reason for taking human life. It violates our deepest belief in God as the creator and the redeemer of humankind. In this respect, there can be no assertion that human life can be taken humanely by the state. Indeed, in the long run, the use of the death penalty by the state will increase the acceptance of revenge in our society and will give official sanction to a climate of violence...";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church affirm the stand of the United Methodist Church in its opposition to capital punishment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each local church encourage its members to write to their state legislators encouraging them to support legislation that would abolish capital punishment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Desert Southwest Conference send this resolution to the Governors and legislators of those States represented in the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church.

1992.14: Sexual Harassment

1992 Journal, pp. 41-42

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church acknowledges that both men and women suffer sexual harassment in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other mental health professionals are now finding strong evidence that intrinsic parts of sexual harassment are (1) isolation through secrecy, and (2) implied or outright intimidation of the victims; and

WHEREAS, victims most often do not report sexual harassment out of fear of retaliation by perpetrators, such as: loss of job, limited opportunity for upward mobility, character assassination, and even physical harm; and

WHEREAS, society has traditionally discounted victims' reports; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment goes against all of the biblical, theological and social principles of the United Methodist Church;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Methodist Church stands against any kind of sexual harassment of any individual under any circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Methodist Church continue to strengthen its stance against sexual harassment within the denomination, within the church as a whole and in the public arena;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that without neglecting the victimization of men, the United Methodist Church recognizes that the majority of incidents occur against women. Therefore, the denomination seeks to address the special needs of women in this situation by recommending the following actions:

1. Increase funding to the Commission on Status and Role of Women, so that it may provide seminars, study materials and speakers it cannot now currently fund.
2. Bring the issue of sexual harassment to the local congregations so that members and pastors may more fully understand the dynamics of it.
3. Initiate and support anti-sexual harassment legislation.
4. Continue to keep this concern before legislators at local, county, state and federal levels.
5. Members, clergy, and officials at all levels of the UMC are encouraged to act on their convictions both as individuals and as the church.
1992.15: United Methodist Response to Los Angeles Riots, and to the Resulting Urban Crises

WHEREAS, one month ago, the cities of Los Angeles and Las Vegas were inflamed with the tragedies of rioting, looting, fires and needless injury and death; and

WHEREAS, during the time the national guard was present in Los Angeles, this life-threatening activity stopped, but when the guard left, it resumed. Since that time, the violence continues in varying degrees. Media and individual reports cite incidents in which infants and young children are caught in the crossfire of frustration and retaliation; and

WHEREAS, the biblical, theological and social principles of the United Methodist Church call us to act proactively in situations such as this, speaking prophetically and moving effectively in direct response to this tragedy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we call on this body to explore and develop working relationships with community social and political leaders across the conference. In doing so, we will reaffirm the statements and actions the general conference has already approved (See page 2);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call on this conference to work in tandem with districts and local churches to address this issue. Specifically, we recommend that the board of church and society set up a special task force to develop strategies and approaches to be used at congregational, district and conference levels for the purposes of:

a) increasing awareness of enculturated racial attitudes present in all ethnic groups, and

b) cross cultural education aimed at helping people of various groups to understand each other, and

c) studying the relationship between economic conditions and violence, and

d) engaging in interracial dialogue through small groups of various ethnicities and income groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the conference to support, and the districts to establish "shalom zones*," (peace zones/safe havens/safety zones) (see page 2) wherever they are needed across the Desert Southwest Conference.

*"Shalom Zone" - the rebuilding of a strategically located city block or its equivalent with the necessary buildings, businesses, and social services needed for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of meaning."

Excerpts from the conversation held on the morning of May 6, 1992, Bishop William B. Lewis, Presiding:

"If indeed, the law of life, as Moses and Jesus insisted, is simple -- "thou shalt love the Lord your God with heart and mind and soul and strength, and your neighbor as yourself" – then when we, from the very beginning, committed the genocide of the Native Americans, established slavery, refused to allow the Constitution to include women and all who did not own a piece of land, we created the basis of 2 societies. We created the seed of destruction in our own corporate life and character. And we of the church must hear the voice of God calling us to transform it."

"The church must act to develop study and action programs that inform and educate United Methodists about the unfinished business of creating a society as Martin Luther King Jr. described -- where persons are judged on the content of the character rather than the color of their skin or their position in life."

"As United Methodists, we must recognize that there will 'be no peace without justice and that justice must be lived out in every life, every home and every institution of our society."

--James Lawson, Pastor, delegate from California-Pacific Conference to General Conference.
1993.00: Promoting Solar Electricity in the Desert Southwest

WHEREAS, the 1992 Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference resolved that the church should encourage the construction of electrical generating plants using non-fossil fuel; and
WHEREAS, the United States has signed the Climate Change Framework Convention along with over 150 nations, supporting the goal of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, of which carbon dioxide is the most important. In the Desert Southwest, electrical generation from fossil fuels is the largest part of our energy budget in both dollars and emissions; and
WHEREAS, solar thermal technology is a non-polluting renewable resource and the Desert Southwest has the best annual intensity of solar energy in the United States; and solar electric power plants could supply all peaking electrical needs of the desert Southwest; and
WHEREAS, Arizona and California utilities are funding a pilot demonstration project developed by the Department of Energy and Sandia Laboratories called Solar II. Solar II is a 10 megawatt solar central receiving tower near Barstow, California, which heats nitrate salt solution by sunshine focused from an array of mirrors. By 1997, Solar II should provide production technology by which commercial solar power plants could be designed, constructed and operated; and
WHEREAS, realization of the construction of these plants in the Desert Southwest will require support for some increase in the rates for power (by 2 to 5 cents per kilowatt), locations for siting the plants, and utilizing perhaps 100 square miles of land over the next 10 years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church should support developments in the research and construction of solar powered utilities by:
a) supporting land acquisition efforts in your region for solar parks; b) inviting utility executives to Conference meetings and congratulating those who have pioneered efforts in this field; c) supporting solar technology in those developing countries which have adequate solar resources; d) discussing this topic with local and state elected officials; and e) writing letters to the editor of local publications expressing your support for continued development of solar energy resources.

1993.01: Becoming a Conference Seeking Reconciliation of All People

WHEREAS, Christians are called to "be reconciled one to another"; and
WHEREAS, God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Christ. Anyone who believes in Christ is not condemned (John 3:16,17); and WHEREAS, Jesus' appeal for "oneness" in John 17:21-22 calls for the reconciliation of all creation, and
WHEREAS, Jesus indicates in the Parable of the Last Judgment that we will be acknowledged to the extent that we accept, embrace and minister to "the least of these ... " (Matthew 25:31-46); and
WHEREAS, the General Conference in 1988 adopted the Consultation on Church Consensus, recognizing the apostolic understanding that baptism with water effects or signifies the union of the one baptized with Christ, and in Christ with all members of his body, and thus is our basic bond of unity; and
WHEREAS, on the basis of our unity in baptism, the United Methodist church has committed itself "to be in ministry for and with all persons" (¶ 71f, 1988 Book of Discipline); and
WHEREAS, The COCU Consensus sets forth our conviction that members of the Church fail as Christ's ambassadors in reconciling the world to God if we have not been reconciled to one another, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Desert Southwest Annual Conference define itself as a CONFERENCE, seeking the reconciliation of all people without regard to their race, socioeconomic class or sexual orientation.
1993.02: Recognition of Family Violence
1993 Journal, p. 35

WHEREAS, violence has become so prevalent that it is becoming a way of life. The FBI reports that one case of physical assault by a spouse is reported in this country every sixty seconds; and
WHEREAS, The National League of Cities states that as many as half of all women will experience violence at some time in their marriage. Between 22% and 35% of all visits by females to emergency rooms are for injuries from domestic assaults; and
WHEREAS, all too often the religious community has not known how to respond to incidents of violence. Indeed, the religious community is frequently viewed as judgmental and rejecting; and
WHEREAS, there is no Social Principle directly addressing the issue of domestic abuse; and
WHEREAS, there has been little training to educate clergy and laity to promote peaceful solution to domestic stress or to support all participants in situations of physical and emotional abuse.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage the clergy and laity to participate in the Conference on Family violence being held at St Paul's United Methodist Church on October 15-16, 1993, or to study the curriculum offered by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle, Washington.

1993.03: Fellowship of United Methodist Foundations
1993 Journal, p. 35

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference is not presently able to take leadership in development of local church financial foundations,
WHEREAS, United Methodists of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference have been more than generous in support of United Methodism and seek ways to continue to be generous after death,
WHEREAS, local churches of the Desert Southwest are entitled to create vehicles of financial responsibility called foundations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference grant permission and give encouragement to local churches to join into a fellowship of foundations for the purposes of creating larger opportunities and possibilities for all the foundations of the conference and of educating, informing and inspiring United Methodists to continue to help their church,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage its own foundation to participate in such a fellowship and to give leadership where it is able and willing.

1993.06: A Scriptural Calling for Ministry to the of Homosexual
1993 Journal, pp. 35-36

WHEREAS, "United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is e primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 68, p.77); and
WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us that all people are created in the image of God and that all fall short of the Glory of God; and
WHEREAS, "the church cannot teach that the Bible is indifferent to homosexual acts. Although there are only a few passages where such are in view, in every one of those passages a negative judgment about homosexual practice is either stated or presumed" (Report of The Committee to Study Homosexuality to The General Council On Ministries of The United Methodist Church, August 24, 1991, p.24); and
WHEREAS, Jesus, in his teaching on divorce (Mk. 10:6-8 and Mt. 19:4-8), argues from Creation to indicate that God's perfect will for the context of sexual intercourse is heterosexual, monogamous marriage, and Christ's most prolific Apostle, Paul, indicates that a loss of this pattern is sometimes
expressed in homosexual acts by a humanity alienated from God and beset with physical, psychological and spiritual problems (Rom. 1:20-32); and

WHEREAS, contextually, homosexual practice is not seen as "worse" than gossiping, slandering (Rom. 1:26-31), heterosexual fornication, jealousy, factionalizing, drunkenness, etc. (Gal. 5:19-21), all manifestations of humanity's "fall" as worked out in the lives of individuals who are products of their various past decisions, environments and genes; and

WHEREAS, the process of sanctification can change those who desire to be delivered from any of these behaviors (1 Cor. 6:9-11) but that very process is often discouraging (Rom. 7:7-8:9), takes constant effort (1 Cor. 9:26-27) and often results in setbacks and failure (1 Jn. 2:1-2).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, on the basis of Scripture: a) calls on its churches and members to repent for blindly following culture in singling out homosexuals for condemnation and exclusion while not doing the same with heterosexual adulterers and fornicators (1 Cor. 6:9-10), gossips and slanderers (Rom. 1:28-31), and practitioners of other behaviors Scripture pronounces against; b) calls on its pastors and lay membership to create an atmosphere where Homosexuals, as well as those with other behaviors or orientations, can "come out" and be accepted, receiving support from other Christians; and c) calls on its churches to develop appropriate ministries to reach out to the homosexual community, affiliating with whatever groups they may wish (e.g. Reconciling Congregations, PFLAG, Transforming Congregations, Love in Action, etc.) without the Annual Conference endorsing or affiliating with one over another, and report on their plans and progress at their Charge/Church Conferences in 1994.

1994.10: In Support on Increased Cigarette Tax
1994 Journal, p. 32

WHEREAS, cigarette smokers suffer a number of health problems due to their addictive habit. This includes lung cancer and cardiovascular disease, resulting in early death. Approximately 400,000 deaths per year are blamed on cigarette smoking. In addition, EPA estimates about 20,000 cancers are reported each year from the toxic effect of second-hand smoke. The Center for Disease Control finds cigarette smoking is the leading cause of death. An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (November 10, 1993) estimates the following, which account for 50% of total deaths:

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<th>Actual Causes of Death in the United States in 1990</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diet/Activity Patterns</td>
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<td>Alcohol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbial Agents</td>
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<td>Toxic Agents</td>
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<td>Firearms</td>
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<td>Sexual Behavior</td>
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<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illicit Use of Drugs</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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WHEREAS, smoking is an addiction, which is sometimes discouraged through counseling and devices such as patches; and

WHEREAS, advertising for tobacco attracts new teenagers and young adults to the smoking population; and
WHEREAS, educational campaigns to deter teenagers and young adults have a limited effect. Each year an estimated 500,000 teenagers and young adults join the ranks of the smoking population; and
WHEREAS, an increase in the Federal excise tax (of perhaps 75 cents per pack) is being considered to finance the proposed new national health care plan. Such an increase would also act as an "disincentive" to prospective and current smokers. Such an increase would supplement ongoing educational campaigns for smoking cessation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church supports efforts to increase the Federal excise tax on cigarettes as a partial funding source for the national health care plan. The Conference further calls on its members to telephone and write members of their Federal congressional delegation to support this increase.

1994.20: In Support of Nevada Test Site Conversion
1994 Journal, pp. 32-33
WHEREAS, during the last two years, the Nevada Test Site has downsized employment among its contractor and subcontractor employees from approximately 9,600 to 7,200 employees*; and
WHEREAS, these employees have served the United States Government and the "cold war" era policy to maintain nuclear deterrence through the ongoing testing of nuclear bombs; and
WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration have agreed to impose a moratorium on nuclear tests whereby the Nevada Test Site employees are not actively engaged in their original mission, but are doing interim tasks while the status of the test site is being resolved; and
WHEREAS, the Nevada Test Site mission can be converted to testing, developing and demonstrating technology for more peaceful goals. This could include energy generation through solar energy power parks, environmental remediation cleanup technology, nuclear bomb disassembly, and safe rendering of nuclear arms; and
WHEREAS, the employees could be ideally suited to the construction, engineering and design skills necessary to perform the functions mentioned above. In the case of solar energy, Southern Nevada is optimally situated in the United States for receiving the maximum number of days of solar radiation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church supports conversion of the nuclear test site to peaceful alternative uses; and the Conference support expeditious amendments to the United States Department of Energy budget to reflect the development of the Nevada Test Site as a technology demonstration center using its current pool of human resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter registering our support, along with this resolution be sent to each Congressperson within the bounds of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

*According to the Director of the Nevada Test Site Contractors Association

1994.30: In Support of Study Presented by The Bishop’s Task Force on Human Sexuality
1994 Journal, p. 33
WHEREAS, we are all children of God and by the example of Jesus during His lifetime, are taught to dialogue with each other, learn from each other, and to accept each other in unconditional love; and
WHEREAS, recognizing our need for learning and growth in the area of human sexuality, the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church approved a conference-wide study on human sexuality in 1991; and
WHEREAS, in response to this commissioning, the task force on human sexuality, appointed by Bishop Galvan, including both reconciling and transforming representatives, has developed a study on homosexuality to be used in the local churches; and
WHEREAS, this study which came out of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was expanded upon by the task force to include more in-depth information on transformation; and
WHEREAS, this expanded curriculum offers us a tool with which to examine our own beliefs so that we will be more able to relate to each other in unconditional love.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all churches in our conference be encouraged to use this expanded curriculum, and/or the corresponding curriculum developed by the United Methodist Publishing House, "The Church Studies Homosexuality," to study the issues surrounding homosexuality; that each church evaluate the curriculum used; that they use the curriculum in more than one setting; and that they send the evaluation to the conference Board of Church and Society no later than March 1, 1995.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Board of Church and Society compile these evaluations and report back to the 1995 Desert Southwest Annual Conference of their findings.

1994.40: On Maquiladoras
1994 Journal, p. 33
WHEREAS, the United States, Canada and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) into law as of January 1, 1994; and
WHEREAS, NAFTA presents both positive and negative effects on our economies, our environment and various human rights situations; and
WHEREAS, as consumers and shareholders, we have clear connections with our Mexican sisters and brothers who labor in the Maquiladora factories; and
WHEREAS, there is a clear deterioration in the availability and quality of water in the housing areas of the Maquiladoras as a result of the population increase that is necessary for economic development; and
WHEREAS, as a further result of the population increase and the factories in the Maquiladora area, the air in Nogales, Arizona, has the third highest particulate count in Arizona, and the current rate of cancers, lupus and babies born with birth defects continue to be documented at extremely high levels; and
WHEREAS, we as people of faith clearly understand Jesus' call "to do for the least of my brothers and sisters what you would do for me;" and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has clearly stated that stewardship of people and resources are of prime importance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Church and Society of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church coordinate a study group in 1994 or 1995 to participate in a Borderlinks experience visiting the Maquiladoras at the Arizona/Mexico border.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of this study group then become resource persons and catalysts within the Conference for a biblical-centered study of the effects of free trade on border residents and the environment.
1994.60: Response to the Growing Crisis Among Our Children and Teenagers

1994 Journal, pp. 33-34

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me, (Matthew 25:40) and, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs, (Mark 10:14); and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist church states that all children have the right to quality education, food, shelter, clothing, health care and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Arizona ranks thirty-seventh (37th) and Nevada ranks twenty-eighth (28th) on a national scale of child well-being (more than one-fourth of all children under five in Arizona live in poverty and less than one-half of two-year-olds are fully immunized); and

WHEREAS, Nevada ranks number one (1) and Arizona ranks number five (5) in teenage suicides in the nation; and

WHEREAS, teenage pregnancies, inadequate prenatal care, insufficient immunizations, child abuse, delinquency regarding child support obligations, shortages of affordable day care and pre-school programs contribute to the worsening condition of children; and

WHEREAS, advocacy has an ancient Biblical history through the voices of the prophets and the ministry of Jesus as they sought justice for God's people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference supports on a non-partisan basis legislation that brings about a change in the public policy from one of intervention after a crisis to one of preventative investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will advocate for children and teenagers whose voices are not heard and who do not have a vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be sent to the Governors of Arizona and Nevada, Presidents of the Senates and speakers of the House of Representatives of both Arizona and Nevada.

1994.70: Requesting Response from the World Council of Churches Regarding Reader’s Digest Allegations

1994 Journal, p. 34

WHEREAS, the activities of the World council of Churches has been recently criticized by the Reader’s Digest, which made numerous allegations including financial grants to terrorists organizations, undue influence by Communist governments, and grants so controversial as to be kept secret; and

WHEREAS, the absence of substantive response of the World Council of Churches to any of the approximately three dozen specific allegations has led to increasing concern among United Methodists,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference address to the World Council of Churches a request for specific response to each of the specific allegations, with a copy to the General Conference and/or the Council of Bishops.

1994.75: Requesting Response from the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns Regarding Reader’s Digest Allegations

1994 Journal, p. 34

WHEREAS, the activities of the World Council of Churches has been recently criticized by the Reader’s Digest, which made numerous allegations including financial grants to terrorists organizations, undue influence by Communist governments, and grants so controversial as to be kept secret; and
WHEREAS, the absence of direct specific response to specific allegations by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns has led to increasing concern causing problems in financial and membership recruitment concerns in local churches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference address to the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns a request for specific response to each of the specific allegations, with a copy to the General Conference and/or the Council of Bishops.

1994.85: Affirming the Social Principles Stand Against Discrimination
1994 Journal, p. 34

WHEREAS, there is a State wide effort on the part of some religious groups to pass a legislative amendment prohibiting passing laws to protect the rights of gay and lesbian persons, and
WHEREAS, these religious groups are suggesting this to be the "Christian" response to immorality, and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is committed to being in ministry for and with all persons, and
WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, ¶ 71 states; "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to support those rights and liberties for homosexual persons. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting their rightful claims where they have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships which involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference opposes all efforts to pass this proposed amendment.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all the pastors in our conference educate their congregations to the homophobic and unjust agenda behind this proposed amendment.

1995.15: Affirming Inclusion of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Christians
1995 Journal, p. 36

WHEREAS, gay, lesbian and bisexual Christians desire and deserve a place to worship; and
WHEREAS, gay, lesbian and bisexual persons are subject to increasing prejudice and discrimination in housing, employment, health care and religion; and
WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference in 1994, in a consent calendar action, passed a resolution affirming the Social Principles' stand against discrimination towards gay and lesbian persons; and
WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (¶ 71F) states that homosexual persons and heterosexual persons "are individuals of sacred worth. 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 which enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self;" and
WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church in that same paragraph (¶ 71F) states: "Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm God's grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons," and
WHEREAS, there is a great deal of fear, stereotyping and misunderstanding of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, and the church has been a source of hostility and rejection; and
WHEREAS, the overwhelming perception among gay, lesbian and bisexual persons is that they are not welcome in churches, and only a public statement can begin to overcome that perceived reality; and
WHEREAS, such fear and hatred does not reflect God's love; and

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WHEREAS, Jesus taught us that we are called to be the good neighbor to all persons regardless of their identity; and
WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Church is to be in ministry, not to pronounce judgment upon persons; and
WHEREAS, God's grace is not conditional; it is freely given; and
WHEREAS, understanding and reconciliation can occur when individual Christians join together in the community life of worship, prayer, study, and mission; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference urges each local church to welcome and include gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons into their congregations; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference make a witness by affirming, within the established constraints of the Book of Discipline, the full participation of gay, lesbian and bisexual Christians in the life of this Annual Conference and seek reconciliation amongst all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

1995.20: Encounter with Christ Program
1995 Journal, pp. 36-37
WHEREAS, colleague churches of Methodist heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean now have extraordinary new opportunities for mission and ministry, with many experiencing marked numerical growth and renewed vitality in witnessing to God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and
WHEREAS, many of these same churches are struggling with severe financial problems rooted in the massive poverty that besets the majority of peoples of this region of the world; and
WHEREAS, Methodist churches of the Caribbean and Latin America have made costly decisions in their history for self-determination, seeking to be more faithfully incarnate within the diversity of nations within this region; and
WHEREAS, the churches represented by the Council of Evangelical Methodist churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) and the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) urgently need sisters and brothers who will share with them in supporting new church development, evangelistic initiatives, and programs that nurture justice ministries and respect for all persons; and
WHEREAS, many of these colleague churches are being led to make costly new commitments in order to strengthen their solidarity and faithful ministry with children, women and youth
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will encourage and invite support for the General Board of Global Ministries Permanent Fund entitled "Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean (No. 025100), a designated giving channel that provides a special means for current and deferred giving in order to strengthen our shared ministries with the Methodist churches of Latin America and the Caribbean.

1995.30: Committee on Prayer Ministry
1995 Journal, p. 37
WHEREAS, Paul encouraged us to "pray without ceasing". (I Thess. 5: 17 NRSV), and
WHEREAS, it was customary for Jesus to pray, and
WHEREAS, the Church is experiencing a spiritual awakening, and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church should take a leading position in spiritual advocacy;
BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage each local church to add a work area, or commission, on Prayer to its administrative structure to:
1) Create a foundation of prayer, from which all ministries of their church proceeds;
2) Motivate members of their congregation to become more active in prayer, encourage members of their congregation to expand their exposure to differing forms of prayer;
3) Develop educational opportunities for members of their congregation, to train and disciple members of their congregation to become more intentional and effective in their prayer life,
4) Create a Prayer Room (in the same building as the Sanctuary, if possible) from unused, or underutilized, space,
5) Equip members and visitors with prayer resources and materials, and
6) To coordinate existing prayer ministries (such as prayer chain).

1995.40: Pacific Homes Settlement
1995 Journal, p. 37
WHEREAS, item 7.30 as presented to the Desert Southwest Annual Conference in June of 1994 stated that agreement had been reached on a settlement of the Pacific Homes financial restructuring; and
WHEREAS, item 7.30 stated that interest payments would commence in 1996 and that principal payments would begin on December 31, 2002; and
WHEREAS, local United Methodist congregations did participate in the supplying of funds to the Annual Conference to meet the obligations under the settlement of the Pacific Homes lawsuit;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all settlement payments received by the Desert Southwest Annual Conference from the Pacific Homes settlement shall be designated for the planting and establishment of new churches in the Desert Southwest Conference.

1996.00: Encouraging Advocacy for Guatemalan Labor Rights
1996 Journal, p. 38
WHEREAS: In Guatemala the legal minimum wage is not enough to feed a family, and most workers are not even being paid the legal minimum wage. Females workers are sometimes sexually abused or beaten. Workers trying to form unions are often threatened and sometimes brutalized and even murdered. Transnational corporations are making huge profits from suppressed labor and are turning a blind eye to human rights violations, and
WHEREAS: The Bible calls us to render justice to the poor, and advocacy has an ancient Biblical history through the voices of the prophets and the ministry of Jesus as they sought justice for God's people. Hence, as Christians we are called to compassion and justice-making, and
WHEREAS: The Methodist's document Social Principles supports a worker's right to organize, and past General Conference resolutions have stated that the United Methodist Church should advocate support for internationally recognized worker rights based on ILO conventions, and
WHEREAS: The intensity of Guatemalan state violence makes it very difficult for Guatemalan workers to win anything without international solidarity,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Information on advocacy for Guatemalan labor right be disseminated throughout the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church in the following ways:
A. Information be put in the coordinated mailing at least quarterly about labor rights violations and/or human rights violations in Guatemala.
B. Articles and/or letters to the editor be submitted to Desert Views to give information and encourage advocacy for labor rights in Guatemala.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Conference call on its members to telephone and to write to persons in positions of authority or power in the US and Guatemala to advocate Guatemalan labor rights. This would included government officials in the US and Guatemala. It could also include CEOs
of transnational corporations buying these products. Suggestions on advocacy and names and addresses of who to write to will appear in the coordinated mailing and in Desert Views. Sources of this information could include groups currently working to improve conditions for Guatemalan workers such as US/Guatemalan Labor Education Project.

1996.05: On Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

WHEREAS: The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy, abortion and childbearing of any developed nation, and
WHEREAS: Arizona ranks third in births to teens and Nevada ranks eighth, and
WHEREAS: teenagers need guidance and community support to develop healthy attitudes about human sexuality and to prevent pregnancy, and
WHEREAS: teens who have children are often unprepared, unable or unwilling to give their children the guidance and support they need, and
WHEREAS: church communities are natural and necessary places to impart values, aid parents and guide teenagers;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages local churches to provide programs which:
− involve parents and teens together to promote a greater understanding of Christian teaching about
− human sexuality
− address media influences and peer pressure
− are culturally and linguistically appropriate
− provide age- and experience-appropriate lessons
− teach self-respect and respect for others
− teach decision-making, moral judgment and refusal skills
− are integrated with comprehensive reproductive health education

1996.15: For a National Call to Prayer

WHEREAS, the Willowbrook United Methodist Church of Sun City, Arizona has issued the following call for prayer:
"We, the people of the Willowbrook United Methodist Church, call for a national time of prayer each morning when the flag of the United States of America is raised in our individual homes and each evening as the flag of the United States of America is lowered; this for a period of twelve days beginning October 26, 1996 and lasting until November 6, 1996," and
WHEREAS, the Willowbrook United Methodist Church has issued a petition to all churches and communicators to make this call to prayer known to the voters of the United States of America, and
WHEREAS, the Willowbrook United Methodist Church is a church in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and has asked that conference help to make known this call, and
WHEREAS, such a call is a reflection of the shared devotion to country and to God of the people of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference including all its staff; churches, clergy and members commit to assist in making known this call to prayer.
1996.20: To Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Retirement Facility in Arizona

WHEREAS: Arizona is rapidly becoming the retirement location of choice for many people, and
WHEREAS: The population of the United States is aging and people are living longer, and
WHEREAS: The needs of and aging population require a special set of services and opportunities.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the bishop of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church appoint a special study committee to study the need, the possibility and the feasibility of this Annual Conference establishing a retirement facility within the Annual Conference and relate to the Conference Council on Ministries.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this committee report its findings to the 1997 session of the annual conference.

1996.25: To Rename the Koinonia Meeting Room to the Elias Galvan Room

WHEREAS: the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and Elias Galvan's election as bishop began life together in 1984, and
WHEREAS: in Numbers 11:29, Moses said, "Unto Joshua, would God that all the Lord's people were prophets; and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them," and
WHEREAS: Bishop Galvan has encouraged and empowered the laity since his first day in the conference, and
WHEREAS: meetings are a vital part of the setting and implementing of ministry by all members of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the room at the Desert Southwest Conference Center known as the Koinonia meeting room be renamed the Elias Galvan Room, and
BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED: That a portrait of Bishop Galvan be commissioned and with appropriate citation be hung in the Elias Galvan Room.

1996.31: City of Mesa, Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Holiday

WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Annual conference in previous years has supported the establishment of an Arizona Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, and
WHEREAS, various bodies, local, state and national of the United Methodist Church have encouraged the adoption of a Mesa Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, and
WHEREAS, United Methodist Pastors and churches in the City of Mesa are working diligently to secure signatures to place the establishment of a city of Mesa Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day on the ballot vote in November 1996, and
WHEREAS, the petitions with sufficient signatures of qualified voters is due to the City Clerk Office by July 3, 1996,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference go on record in support of the passage of the Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Holiday in Mesa (Prop 300).
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference join with its brother and sister United Methodists (clergy and lay) of Mesa in seeking to secure the sufficient number of signatures to place the issue on the November ballot by encouraging Desert Southwest Conference members who are registered voters in Maricopa County, AZ to assist in securing signatures on petitions during the period of the Annual Conference.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual conference encourage its members who are residents of the City of Mesa and registered voters to sign the petitions and carry petitions to their respective churches and neighborhoods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference host a press conference inviting leaders from other faith communities to join us in publicly encouraging the passage of the Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Holiday.

1996.33: Honoring Bishop Elias Galvan’s Ministry in the Desert Southwest Conference

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference, during the totality of its existence, has been blessed by the episcopal leadership of Elias Galvan, and
WHEREAS, Bishop Galvan will move to a different episcopal appointment as of September 1, 1996, and
WHEREAS, the love, care and concern of Bishop Galvan for the clergy, laity and congregations under his care has been a manifestation of Agape love in the highest degree, and
WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference desires to express its love and respect to Bishop Elias Galvan,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Secretary of this Conference is directed to enter into the permanent records thereof this resolution expressing unbounded respect and love for Elias Galvan, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Conference create and Endowed Scholarship in the name of Elias Galvan through the School of Theology at Claremont, the earnings of which scholarship fund shall be distributed annually to a deserving Hispanic student at STC, and/or some student from the Desert Southwest Conference, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Scholarship fund be created through voluntary contributions from congregations and individuals desirous of honoring and expressing love and appreciation for Bishop Galvan.

1997.20: National Call to Prayer

WHEREAS, the National Call to Prayer can be a powerful force to strengthen and guide our national and local public officials in their commitment to the spiritual uplifting of our society; and
WHEREAS, members of Willowbrook United Methodist Church feel strongly that our nation and its moral structure must be based on solid religious commitment and the divine guidance of Almighty God; and
WHEREAS, Willowbrook United Methodist Church has initiated the National Call to Prayer as a means of lifting our nation and communities to a higher moral level through prayer for national, state and locally elected leaders and employees -- emphasizing days of national significance (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and each national election day); and
WHEREAS, many churches throughout the Desert Southwest Conference are establishing prayer ministries;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference endorses the National Call to Prayer and will, through its staff and leadership, participate in the National Call to Prayer; and
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference encourages each local church and their members to join in the National Call to Prayer.
1998.00: Let Us Remember Who We Are & Where We Have Come From
1998 Journal, p. 48

WHEREAS, our Council of Bishops has said, "Issues currently creating concern and pain within the church call for renewed commitment to our doctrinal foundations as contained in the Articles of Religion, the Confession of Faith and Wesley's Sermons and Notes" and

WHEREAS, our Council of Bishops has called "all United Methodists to the fulfillment of the teaching office of the church and to ground the church's actions more deeply in the foundational doctrines and theological task as set forth in The Book of Discipline" and

WHEREAS, our Council of Bishops has solicited our prayers and support as they engage in further prayerful study and dialogue and "develop a teaching paper as a means of identifying critical doctrinal and ecclesial foundations".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference ask our Bishop to share our greetings and approval with all on the Council of Bishops; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference ask all of its churches and people to pray daily for the efforts of our Bishops, and to pray at noon on Thursdays for the renewal of our Church; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference asks the members of the Conference to renew our commitment to the "Theological Task" of the church as stated in the Book of Discipline.

1998.10: Let Us Remember Who We Are & What Must Be Done
1998 Journal, p. 49

WHEREAS, God almighty sent our Lord and Savior to proclaim good news and model servanthood to all who would be born no matter their worldly status; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ himself says, ... 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? ' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40 NIV); and

WHEREAS, all of Methodism was founded as various renewal and re-visioning movements that tried to share our founder's balance between evangelism and missions, serving ourselves and serving others, and offering hope for the next life and this; and

WHEREAS, the focus and the resources of our Conference from its founding have gone to church growth first; we the undersigned, who have a God given burden for our urban centers and all who are without hope, have been given new hope because of the great efforts of our Conference, in Expanding the Circle, and The United Methodist Church with its attempt to renew United Methodism by renewing its urban ministry in a movement called Holy Boldness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference enters a covenant with those we serve to be faithful to God's calling to be holy and bold in fulfilling our ministry in the community and city as we:

• Practice theology in our community that proclaims and exemplifies God's love through Jesus Christ;
• Strengthen urban churches and church-based community organizations as strategic bases for Gospel witness and action;
• Work toward the eradication of racism;
• Develop strong multi cultural relationships to carry out ministry in the church and community;
• Improve urban life through community economic development;
• Engage the community to work toward the healing, health and wholeness of individuals and the city;
• Develop and empower new and existing local leadership for church and community ministry; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Step of Holy Boldness" be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference for serious consideration of inclusion in Priority #5 of the Conference Strategic Plan.

1999.10: Covenant with the Northwest Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (DSWAC UMC) has, as one of its geographic boundaries, the U.S. border with Mexico, and therefore with the Northwest Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico (Conferencia Anual NorOeste de la Iglesia Metodista de Mexico, Asociación Religiosa [CANO IMMAR]), and
WHEREAS, our Conference Board of Global Ministries has created a Church to Church Committee for the task of relating congregations from our conference with congregations in CANO IMMAR, and
WHEREAS, our Church to Church Committee has worked with the Church to Church Committee of the CANO IMMAR, and together in Christian unity they have negotiated a renewed Covenant to coordinate and facilitate this task.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the DSWAC UMC ask our Bishop to reaffirm the covenant negotiated with CANO IMMAR, and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Church to Church Committee of our Board of Global Ministries be empowered to plan a signing ceremony in coordination with Bishop Dew and Bishop Aguiña Marquez of CANO IMMAR, to formalize this renewed Covenant.

1999.15: Jubilee 2000/Our Moral Imperative

WHEREAS, all humanity is called to forgiveness, reconciliation and jubilee, and
WHEREAS, the biblical witness mandates just and equitable commercial relationships, selfless help to those in need and the cancellation of oppressive debts that keep people locked in poverty, and
WHEREAS, we are faced with the advent of a new millennium, which should signal a time of hope and new beginning for all the people of The Earth, and
WHEREAS, escalating debt repayments divert resources which impoverished countries could use for health care, clean water, education, and production that benefits local communities, and
WHEREAS, the majority of people who did not benefit from the loans giving rise to this indebtedness are, nonetheless responsible for carrying the burden of repayment, and
WHEREAS, high levels of debt lead to social turmoil, conflict and environmental destruction, and
WHEREAS, we believe it right to put behind us the mistakes made by both lenders and borrowers.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon the leaders of the richest countries, the commercial
banks, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, regional development banks and other
international financial institutions to cancel definitively, by the year 2000, the crushing international
debt of impoverished countries burdened with high levels of human need and environmental
distress, and to do so in a way that benefits ordinary people, and without creating conditions that
perpetuate or deepen poverty and environmental degradation.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above mentioned countries, governments and financial institutions
work with governments and civil society to prevent recurring destructive cycles of indebtedness.
WE THEREFORE INSTRUCT EACH CHURCH OF THE DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE to
support THE JUBILEE 2000/USA CAMPAIGN through actively familiarizing themselves with the
dynamics of world-wide poverty, its impact on our environment and our global economy, and its
dehumanizing effect on our Sisters and Brothers all around the world.
WE LIKEWISE ASK our Bishop to instruct the Conference Secretary of the Desert Southwest Conference
to send this resolution to the President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton.

1999.2
1999 Journal, p. 50
Submitted by the Conference Young Adult/United Methodist Student Movement Council
WHEREAS, the Young Adults of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference (DSWAC) have struggled for
the past several years to be consistent and established in the conference, and
WHEREAS, the need for a council has been quite apparent in the DSWAC, and
WHEREAS, the Young Adult Council feels that the Young Adult Coordinator(s) should be fresh, new, have
enthusiasm and be ready for challenges, and serve a term that can maintain this enthusiasm.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the term for the Young Adult Coordinators(s) be limited to a period of
two years.

2000.00
2000 Journal, p. 54
“If I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”
1 Corinthians 13:2
WHEREAS, the delegates to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church met in May, 2000
and rejected by a considerable majority resolutions that would change the wording of the Discipline
which states that "Homosexuality is incompatible with Christian Teaching"
WHEREAS, the delegates rejected by a considerable majority a resolution that would change the rules
excluding "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from service as ministers within the United
Methodist Church and a resolution that would allow local congregations to decide whether same-
sex holy union ceremonies could be conducted in the local church
WHEREAS, the delegates also rejected by a considerable majority several resolutions calling for a
stronger stance about homosexuality including a requirement that clergy sign the statement: "I do
not believe that homosexuality is God's perfect will for any person. I will not practice it. I will not
promote it. I will not allow its promotion to be encouraged under my authority."
WHEREAS, the delegates' votes reflect a large division within the United Methodist Church
WHEREAS, this disagreement often causes us to regard each other with less than Christian charity and
threatens to impair our ability to pray, love and work together to carry out God's will in our world
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference call upon its members to be in an attitude of prayer and discernment to seek guidance from the Bible, tradition, experience, reason, and the Holy Spirit.

May we use this guidance to reach out to each other in a spirit of love, forgiveness and mutual respect for one another’s experience and belief. May we each find ways to welcome all people into our fellowship without compromising our individual understanding of right and wrong. May we find ways to witness to the greater United Methodist Church that we can indeed work, pray and love together while continuing to struggle with our differing beliefs on homosexuality and on other important matters.

2001.10: Living Wage Resolution

WHEREAS a living wage might appropriately be defined as a wage that is sufficient for a family’s basic need for housing, health care, food, education and transportation, and
WHEREAS our current minimum wage in Arizona is $5.15 per hour, which is insufficient to provide these basic needs, and
WHEREAS it has been determined* that a living wage of $8.00 per hour, with health benefits, or $9.00 per hour without health benefits is a minimal requirement for a family of four, and
WHEREAS churches might well define themselves as prophetic catalysts for justice and righteousness, and
WHEREAS there are churches, and related administrative offices, within the Desert Southwest Conference that are paying their employees less than a LIVING WAGE.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Annual Conference strongly urges that all Conference and local church personnel (program, secretarial, custodial and support) be paid a LIVING WAGE not less than $8.00 per hour with health benefits, or $9.00 per hour without benefits, beginning in the next fiscal period (January, 2002).

*1. The Greater Tucson Economic Council, in a 1999 study conducted by the Tucson business community, determined that one/third of the jobs in Pima County don’t pay enough to meet the bare necessities of life. In a parallel study conducted by Dr. John Schwartz, Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Don Grant, professor of Sociology, both of the University of Arizona, it was determined that the bare necessities of life, for a family of four, cannot be met with anything less than $8.00 per hour with health benefits, and $9.00 per hour without such benefits.

2001.20: Affirmation of the Western Jurisdictional Resolution “We Will Not Be Silent”

WHEREAS, the Western Jurisdictional Conference during its session at Caspar, Wyoming, July 12-15, 2000, passed the following resolution entitled “We Will Not Be Silent”:

“We of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church have heard the call of the prophet Micah “to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” We have heard Jesus’ invitation for all to come to the banquet table of God’s abundant grace.

“Certain actions of General Conference 2000 have caused tremendous pain for individuals and communities and have resulted in an attempt to suppress our prophetic and pastoral ministries among all people, regardless of sexual orientation.
“The votes may have been cast but our voices will not be silent. Our jurisdictional vision calls us to be “a home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation.” Affirming the statement of United Methodist of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church, “We acknowledge that there may be differences of opinion among us, but this does not require that we wait on justice.” We cannot accept discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered persons and, therefore, we will work toward their full participation at all levels in the life of the church and society. Valuing the voices of those who disagree, we will continue to be in dialogue as we journey together in creative tension. We will continue to be in ministry with all God’s children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings. We will continue to feast at table with all God’s children.”

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference intends to support our brothers and sisters across the Western Jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference both affirms and supports the action taken by the Western Jurisdictional Conference at its 2000 session, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Secretary shall ensure that the text of this resolution be printed in the “Open Line”, and that the Conference Secretary shall mail a copy of this resolution to each congregation in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

NOTE: After the adoption of Resolution 21.20 on Saturday, June 10, 2001, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Holt submitted in writing a request for a ruling of law regarding the legality of the resolution in accordance with ¶2609.6 of the 2000 Book of Discipline. Bishop William W. Dew immediately ruled that Resolution 21.20 is not in violation of the Discipline. The resolution, the written request for a ruling and additional required documents were submitted to the Judicial Council for review on June 10, 2001.

2002.00: Interreligious Understanding

WHEREAS, we are called to be mediators of Jesus’ gospel of love and reconciliation, and

WHEREAS, Jesus reminds us to love God and neighbor when he said to the scribes in Mark 12: 30-31 that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these,” and

WHEREAS, the commitment of The United Methodist Church to social justice and to theological inquiry is longstanding, and

WHEREAS, interactions between Christians and Muslims working together for better exchange of information and for ways to cooperate often leads to better understanding of each tradition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that local churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference are urged to provide programs and dialogues leading to a better understanding of both Islam and Christianity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Board of Church and Society and the Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns provide information about available resources for these activities.

2002.10: Peacemaking

WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have caused widespread national reactions including fear, religious intolerance, racial profiling, the erosion of civil liberties and war, and
WHEREAS, Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9) and further told us to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven,” and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church in ¶164 G of the 2000 Book of Discipline states that “We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations. From the beginning, the Christian conscience has struggled with the harsh realities of violence and war, for these evils clearly frustrate God’s loving purposes for humankind. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. Some of us wrongly believe that way and other acts of violence are never acceptable to Christians. We also acknowledge that most Christians regretfully realize that, when peaceful alternatives have failed, the force of arms may be preferable to unchecked aggression, tyranny and genocide,” and

WHEREAS, we support the United Methodist Bishops’ Pastoral Letter of Hope and Peace of 9 November 2001 as a beginning point for reflection and action.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference joins with other United Methodists across the world in repenting of the ways we benefit from and participate in unjust economic and political systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we protest the use of violence by all governments to resolve global problems and witness to the urgency of just peacemaking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we request that the Conference Board of Church and Society sponsor forums for encourage global peacemaking discussion and dialogue in the local churches of the Conference. The purpose of the forums would be to encourage active engagement regarding: Christian and United Methodist heritage, root causes of war, ways global conflict is perpetuated and potential strategies for peacemaking.

2002.20: Affirmation of the General Board of Church and Society
2002 Journal, p. 60

WHEREAS, from the very beginnings of the Methodist Revival in England, John Wesley and the people called Methodist have effectively combined the dual Christian emphases of personal piety and social justice as they prayed, studied, worshiped, and worked for the elimination of such social ills as slavery and child labor, and

WHEREAS, the prophet Micah reminded us that God requires nothing more of us than “to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8), and WHEREAS, the General Board of Church and Society continues in the Wesleyan tradition of providing a prophetic ministry to the United Methodist Church by fulfilling its purpose as defined in ¶1002 of the 2000 Book of Discipline which states that “the purpose of the board shall be to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church and to the persons and structures of the communities and world in which they live. It shall seek to bring the whole of human life, activities, possessions, use of resources, and community and world relationships into conformity with the will of God. It shall show the members of the Church and the society that the reconciliation that God effected through Christ involves personal, social, and civic righteousness,” and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Book of Discipline in ¶1004 further defines the responsibility of the General Board of Church and Society as being “to seek the implementation of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on Christian social concerns. Furthermore, the board and its executives shall provide forthright witness and action on issues of human well-being, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation that call Christians to respond as forgiven people for whom Christ died. In particular, the board shall conduct a program of research, education, and action on the wide range of issues that confront the Church,” and
WHEREAS, the General Board of Church and Society has faithfully discharged its responsibilities as defined by the 2000 Book of Discipline, and
WHEREAS, a non-affiliated organization, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, in their January 1, 2002 issue of UMAction called for the elimination of the General Board of Church and Society at the 2004 General Conference because of the Board’s faithfulness to its purpose and mission.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Eighteenth Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference supports and affirms the work of the General Board of Church and Society.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society disseminate to every congregation within the bounds of the annual conference information regarding the prophetic ministry on our behalf of the General Board of Church and Society.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society.

2002.30: Support for the United Methodist Women
2002 Journal, pp. 60-61
WHEREAS, Mark 5:44 says, “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of god in heaven; for God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous,” and
WHEREAS, the Council of Bishops in a pastoral letter following the events of September 11, 2001, state that “We, your bishops, believe that violence in all of its forms and expressions is contrary to God’s purpose in the world and it is only sacrificial love, not war, which can reconcile people to God and to each other,” and
WHEREAS, the Council of Bishops further called upon us as Christians to bear witness to the biblical promise of peace that passes all understanding and to make “peace with justice” a way of life, and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Women continually lift up issues of justice and support of ministries for women, children, families, and communities in need, and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Women is not afraid to be criticized for speaking out and acting courageously when taking a stand on unpopular issues, and
WHEREAS, a non-affiliated organization, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, in their January 1, 2002 issue of UMAction called for the elimination of the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries at the 2004 General Conference because of the Division’s faithfulness to its purpose and mission.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference be in support of the United Methodist Women, the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, and its courageous women, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution of support be forwarded by the Conference Secretary to the Directors of the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

2002.40: Concerning the Institute on Religion and Democracy
2002 Journal, pp. 61-64
WHEREAS the Gospels of Jesus Christ implore God’s people to love one another, our neighbors, and our enemies; and
WHEREAS the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), a conservative organization which includes a committee focusing on United Methodism, United Methodist Action, in its document Reforming America's Churches Project 2001-2004, stated:
• Mainline churches were "The bulwark of the religious left";
"For nearly the last 20 years, the IRD has worked to discredit and diminish the religious left's influence"; and

WHEREAS in response to the call of the Gospels to love others, neighbors, and enemies, the United Methodist Church, in the 2000 editions of the *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Resolutions*:
- Declared support for hate crimes legislation;
- Advocated increased funding for health care programs;
- Called for the reduction of nuclear weapons;
- Supported protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS in the *Reforming America's Churches* document, the IRD declared its opposition to these positions and its desire to change them, characterizing them, among others, as "The most dangerous priorities of the religious left," and noted that the IRD was "Training church members in counter arguments undercutting the left's influence," and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church, desiring to be a faithful witness for Christ in the society and world in which we live, and to be in connection with the larger family of Christ, created the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries, and became a member of the National Council of Churches of Christ and the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS in the *Reforming America's Churches* document, and in its publication *UM Action Briefing*, the IRD advocated:
- "The abolition of the Board of Church and Society, and the closure of the United Methodist Church's Washington D. C. Offices;"
- "Targeting" the General Board of Global Ministries to "Shift away from left-wing political action";
- "The final dismantling of the National Council of Churches";
- "Counteracting the influence of liberal ecumenical groups" such as the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS at the 2000 General conference, the representation of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference at future general conferences was reduced by 50% due to IRD supported legislation, and

WHEREAS in the *Reforming America's Churches* document, the IRD characterized the 2000 General Conference as being "the most productive General Conference in 40 years," in part because "Delegates to the General Conference voted to reapportion the composition of future general conferences so that declining (and liberal) regions of the church such as the northeast and west coast will receive fewer delegates," and

WHEREAS in the same document, the IRD:
- Described their "Program for influencing the governing church conventions of three denominations, (which) will cost over $3.6 million (over) the next four years," with goal of "Real influence for conservatives within the permanent governing structures" of these three and other denominations;
- Stated that "IRD is giving special attention to reform of the United Methodist Church, America's third largest religious body, and the largest denomination under religious left control";
- In a section summarizing their recent successes, characterized those who differ from their positions as "The religious left" and "Radical religious voices," and concluded "The battle is clearly joined"; and

WHEREAS Paragraph 104, section 4 of the *Book of Discipline* states:

"In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to work within our diversity while exercising patience and forbearance with one another. Such patience stems neither from indifference toward the truth nor from an indulgent tolerance of error but from an awareness that we know only in part and that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God except by the Spirit of God. We proceed with our
theological task, trusting that the Spirit will grant us wisdom to continue our journey with the whole people of God” (p. 84).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, believe that the agendas of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and its subcommittee UM Action, as defined in the Reforming America’s Churches document, are inconsistent with the mission, nature, and theology of the United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and the accompanying explanatory document be distributed to all members of Desert Southwest Conference congregations, to all other United Methodist Annual Conferences, the Council of Bishops, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, the National Council of Churches of Christ, and the World Council of Churches.

Supporting Document for Resolution

THE INSTITUTE ON RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY:
Its Goals, Positions and Strategies according to the document Reforming America’s Churches Project 2001-2004

What is the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD)?

- "The IRD was founded in 1981 to combat the irresponsible political lobbying of mainline churches" (p. 3).
- "IRD’s three denominational committees are Episcopal Action, United Methodist Action, and Presbyterian Action. All empower conservative church members with reporting about their church structure they will not otherwise hear" (p. 2).
- The IRD is "A chief organizer" of the Association for Church Renewal" (ACR), a "Coalition of Conservative/evangelical groups in all the major mainline churches" (p. 2). The IRD also "Acts as the publicity and program arm" for the ACR (p. 12).

Who are the leaders of the IRD and United Methodist Action?

- "Diane Knippers is IRD President and directs the Episcopal project" (p. 3). Mrs. Knippers is also "A contributing editor to Christianity Today" (p. 8), and "An officer in the National Association of Evangelicals" (p. 12)
- Faye Short is a member of the United Methodist Action Steering Committee, is director of the RENEW Network for Women, the "Women's Program Arm of Good News" (Good News, May/June 2002, p.31) and has authored many articles for Good News magazine.
- Mark Tooley is the director of United Methodist Action (p. 3), the editor of UM Action Briefing, and has also authored or co-authored many articles for Good News.

Goals and Purpose of the IRD:

- To create "Real influence for conservatives within the permanent governing structures" of mainline denominations (p. 1) and states "We will continue to expose Religious Left Extremism" and "Challenge the claims of liberal church officials" (p. 8). It is concentrating its efforts on the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and the United Methodist Church because “Their respective memberships include remarkably high numbers of leaders in politics, business, and culture. For example, over one third of the members of the U.S. Senate belong to these three denominations. These denominations include a disproportionate number of higher income and educated Americans. They are affiliated with hundreds of colleges, universities, seminaries, academies, and charitable outreach centers...These denominations are still flagship churches that directly or indirectly influence millions of Americans" (p. 1).
- "Counteract the influence of liberal ecumenical groups, such as “...the World Council of Churches" (p. 2).
"A major priority among 2001-2004 year will be to push for the final dismantling of the National Council of Churches" (p. 12).

Specific goals for the United Methodist Church:

- "IRD is giving special attention to reform of the United Methodist Church, America's third largest religious body, and the largest denomination under religious left control" (p. 2).
- "Institutionalize conservative gains in the seminaries and boards and agencies of the church," stating that "Some of these institutions boast endowments of hundreds of millions of dollars, (with which they) continue to make grants to a host of radical left causes" (p. 9).
- "At the 2000 General Conference, the IRD supported a restructuring of general conference representation that cut the Desert Southwest delegation to future general conferences in half. The IRD then characterized the 2000 United Methodist General Conference as "The most productive General Conference in 40 years," in part because
  "Delegates to the General Conference voted to reapportion the composition of future general conferences so that declining (and liberal) regions of the church such as the northeast and west coast will receive fewer delegates. Growing (and more conservative) regions such as the southeast and overseas churches will receive more delegates. This will help insure that conservative trends...will continue at future general conferences” (p. 9).
- "In particular, we are targeting the Washington-based Board of Church and Society and the New York-based Board of Global Ministries" (p. 9). The IRD advocates the "Abolition" of the Board of Church and Society (UM Action, 12 '01, p. 1), and states
  "Our main target will be the Washington lobby office, which is the largest church lobby in the nation's capitol. At the 2000 General Conference, we persuaded 30 percent of the delegates to vote for its elimination. We believe we have a chance of getting 51 percent in 2004. We will also target the United Methodist missions board, our largest church agency with over $400 million in assets and an annual budget of over $150 million. We want to shift this agency away from left-wing political action” (p. 10).

Some of the IRD's positions on social and political issues:

- The Environment - The IRD opposes The National Religious Partnership for the Environment, saying that it "focuses on the most dire predictions of global warming in order to justify increased taxation and heavy federal regulation." The IRD calls the positions of the Partnership "Unsubstantiated," and states that it will focus "on discrediting mainline church lobby efforts to spout environmental extremism" (pp. 6-7).
- Hate Crimes - The IRD opposes hate crimes legislation, stating that proponents of such measures "Aim to balkanize America" (p. 7).
- Medical Insurance and Social Security - The IRD supports partial privatization of Social Security, and has expressed a preference for medical savings accounts in over health coverage, and adds, "This promises to be an area that the liberal churches will make a priority in the new, narrowly divided congress" (p. 7).
- Nuclear Weapons - The IRD disagrees with adherence to the ABM treaty, and states, "In the utopian fantasies of mainline church officialdom, national borders and the protection of national interest are things of the past" (p. 7).

How the IRD plans to accomplish its agenda:

- "Call attention to egregious behavior by radical church leaders," and "Discredit the religious left" through resolutions at local and regional denominational conventions (p. 2).
- "Identify electable candidates for national church conventions...Help train candidates to be effective at church conventions... (and) Assist conservatives who serve on the boards of key church agencies so as to have direct influence over the permanent staff" (p. 2).
“After delegates are elected in 2003 by their respective annual conferences, we will use the following year to train sympathetic delegates... and educate them in the issues on which we focus. We will stress the importance of changing the staff and leadership of permanent church agencies” (p. 10).

- Influence mainline church members through its publications. "Our denominational publications now reach 285,000 households and we project growth to 560,000. The combined audiences of reform publications in the Association for Church Renewal total nearly a million households" (p. 1).

- Influence public perception of mainline churches through the media.
  
  “IRD staff have recently appeared on CBS's 60 Minutes, on Fox News with Brit Hume, on ABC's Extra! and on PBS's Religion and Ethics News Weekly... The addition of new staff will facilitate more direct staff contact with religion reporters and other journalists. IRD plans to generate news releases for our media list of over 1200 outlets” (p. 8).

  "We will have more interactions with local newspaper religion reporters who usually rely on official church leaders for comment” (p. 2).

- Submitting resolutions to annual conferences.
  
  “The process of submitting and supporting resolutions is an excellent training ground for conservative activists even if the resolutions are not approved. They will further strengthen our preparation for the national General Conference by helping shape the debate” (p. 10).

- "Key to the longer range success of the church reform movement is in recruiting a younger generation of reformers" (p. 2). "Young people active in mainline churches tend to be more conservative than their parents and grandparents" (p. 13).

2002.50: In Support of the Igniting Ministries Campaign

WHEREAS the 2001 and beyond public motto of the UMC's Igniting Ministries Campaign is “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors,” which provides an excellent illustration of the biblical injunction to “practice hospitality” (Romans 12, Hebrews 13); and

WHEREAS mottos and catchwords need to have a practical application to become actualized;

WHEREAS churches have traditionally been looked to as safe havens for oppressed peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we call upon the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and its congregations to identify safe churches in which the following characteristics are to be found:

1. The heartbeat of the parish ministry will embrace compassion for the needs of the community served, and advocacy in their behalf for justice, mercy, healing and hope.

2. The mind of the congregation will encompass welcome for diverse expressions and actions of life under God and ways to reflect upon biblical, theological, moral, and societal issues.

3. The doors and life of the congregation will be open to all persons regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality and physical condition.

And further, the evidence of 2000 years of Christian witness indicates that the fullness of the Christian message and life in the Reign of God have yet to be fully realized and cries out for actualization of the disciples’ prayer, “Lord, let your Kingdom come on earth...”

And further let it be resolved that we declare the congregations of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference to be safe places for reflection, refuge, and response to the needs of our constituency and parishes.

In addition, to implement this resolution we envision the following constructive responses:

a. The Conference Laity Team shall develop an evaluation tool to be utilized in the evaluation process.
b. The administrative family of each local congregation will monitor the implementation of this resolution.

**2003.20: Resolution to Oppose the Institute of Religion and Democracy (IRD)**

*2003 Journal, p. 57*

WHEREAS several "renewal movements" are committed to drastic changes within the United Methodist Church and its structures, according to articles published by the UM News Service and/or the web pages of the Institute for Religion and Democracy (and its UM program, UM Action), RENEW (a network of evangelical UM women), and the Good News Movement,

WHEREAS, the above organizations are committed to eliminating the General Board of Church and Society, which serves as a compassionate conscience of the Church and advocates for compassionate legislation on Capitol Hill in Washington,

WHEREAS these organizations propose to eliminate the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, a vital UM women's organization which supports women's gifts, talents, and rights,

WHEREAS these organizations plan drastic change in the direction of the General Board of Global Ministries, particularly the Women's Division, which raises global concerns to the plights of women and supports their journey from helplessness to hope and power,

WHEREAS these "renewal movements" want to limit UM articulation of the trinity to "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" and oppose feminine references to God --a significant factor, especially for women whose destructive experience of abuse by males is a block to trust and faith in a God of solely masculine description,

WHEREAS these organizations are committed to withdraw UM support for women's right to choose with regard to her own reproductive health (furthermore, they insist the UM withdraw from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice,

WHEREAS these movements propose to limit United Methodists' understandings and expressions of belief,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we manifestly believe in the necessary American freedom to think and let think, believe and let believe, grow in our best understandings and personal faith in the God of Jesus Christ, and act according to our own God-led conscience.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the work of Jesus Christ through our established institutions and the purpose for which they have been structured, including the General Board of Church and Society, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Board of Global Ministries, the Women's Division; and the full rights of all persons --laity, clergy, and theologians --called United Methodist.

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**2003.25: Turn Back from War as a Solution to Any Conflict**

*2003 Journal, pp. 57-58*

Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church-2000 states: We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as a usual instrument of national foreign policy and insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them, and

WHEREAS history demonstrates that violence begets violence and war begets escalated war, and

WHEREAS human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities (2000 Book of Discipline) and
WHEREAS the foundational message of Christianity is the creation and demonstration of "peace on Earth and goodwill" to all humanity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church reaffirm our Faith and our commitment to oneness in Christ by calling on the United States of America to reduce the manufacture and deployment of armaments, and that the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons be condemned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church affirm that the increased militarization of society must be challenged and stopped, and that we endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control (2000 Book of Discipline).

2003.45: Meeting Accessibility for Youth and Young Adults
2003 Journal, p. 58

WHEREAS, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries recognizes the importance of education in our lives;

AND, WHEREAS, we believe the Desert Southwest Annual Conference should support the full participation of youth and young adults in the life of the annual conference;

AND, WHEREAS, several Conference Boards are required to have youth and young adult representatives as full committee members;

AND, WHEREAS, it is not practical to expect youth and young adults to attend board and committee meetings that are scheduled during the regular weekday school hours;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Boards with youth and young adult members schedule their meetings on evenings and weekends, when youth and young adults may reasonably be expected to participate.

2003.50: Creating a Just and Humane Border
2003 Journal, pp. 58-59

Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS, the South to North movement of Central Americans and Mexicans into the United States is a reflection of numerous inequities within our society that is driven by individuals seeking a way out of extreme poverty, and

WHEREAS, migrants are crossing the border away from areas of intense border enforcement and through less detected but more dangerous and treacherous parts of the Sonoran desert, and

WHEREAS, deaths from exposure to extreme environmental conditions rose sharply because of the redirection of migration after the new border policing initiatives began, and

WHEREAS, 145 of the 320 deaths that occurred along the Arizona-Mexico border in the federal fiscal year 2002 reflected a 30 percent increase from the previous years total, and

WHEREAS, the Bible has many passages that support providing hospitality to the migrant (Isaiah 49:10 directs us: ‘They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.’), and

WHEREAS, humanitarian provisions of water, food, first aid, shoes and clothing are in interim moral response to death in the desert, and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church direct us to advocate for the rights of all migrants and applaud their efforts toward responsible self organization and self determination (paragraph 163F):
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, motivated by faith, will work to create a just and humane border environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, activate our faith-based response by joining other faith-based individuals and human-rights organizations providing hospitality and humanitarian assistance to those crossing the border.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, affirm our faith-based response by encouraging the creation of public policies toward a humane, non-militarized border with legalized work opportunities for migrants in the U.S. and legitimate economic opportunities in migrants' countries of origin as we:

1. Support legalizing the undocumented in the U.S.
2. Promote a responsible guest worker program.
3. Oppose militarization of the border.
4. Encourage economic development in Mexico.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, establish a specific ministry of assistance and hospitality for undocumented migrants in conjunction with the efforts of local churches close to the border of Mexico with funding and/or leadership provided by the following boards, agencies, and committees:

1. Conference Board of Church and Society
2. Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
3. Conference Board of Global Ministries
4. Conference Commission on Religion and Race
5. Conference Church to Church Committee
6. Conference Committee on Hispanic Ministry
7. Conference Committee on Native American Ministries

WHERAS coffee is one of the world's most heavily traded commodities. And it originates from either large plantations that are traditionally run and owned by wealthy landowners, or small operations that are primarily owned by impoverished farmers. These small farmers frequently live in isolated communities, relying on middlemen to buy their coffee invariably at the lowest price possible. The way the system is set up, the farmer's inability to ever get a just return for their labor is essentially guaranteed; and WHERAS many of our conference and district committees, local congregations and church affiliated organizations and agencies in the Desert S.W. Annual Conference, serve coffee during business hours, at meetings, training programs, and fund raising events; and,

WHERAS purchasing domestic coffee brands at the least expensive price makes us unwitting participants in an exploitative system that has trapped thousands of Third World coffee farmers in an inescapable cycle of poverty; and,

WHERAS the Book of Discipline (¶163D) states that "Consumers should exercise their economic power to avoid purchasing products made in conditions where workers are being exploited [and] we call upon consumers, including local congregations and church related institutions, to organize to achieve [this] goal;" and,

WHERAS the International Standards of Fair Trade focus on ensuring that small farmers are compensated with a true living wage, working with democratically run farming cooperatives that are owned and governed by and for the farmers themselves, buying direct from the coops so that the
benefits and profits from trade actually reach the farmers and their communities, providing vital advance credit to farmers, and encouraging ecologically sustainable farming practices; and

WHEREAS in an effort to educate local churches about fair trade, and to provide opportunities for supporting this system which is based on the Christian values of justice, cooperation, and sustainability; the General Board of Global Ministries has organized the UMCOR Coffee Project; and,

WHEREAS according to the UMCOR Coffee Project’s fair trade partner Equal Exchange, over 7,500 churches, places of worship and faith-based organizations nationwide have been involved in their Interfaith Coffee Program; supporting small coffee farmers by purchasing almost 118 tons of fairly traded coffee in 2003.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that in seeking an authentic Christian response to plight of Third World coffee farmers, their families, and their communities; the Desert S.W. Annual Conference urges all conference and district committees, local congregations, and church affiliated organizations and agencies that use coffee to participate in the UMCOR Coffee Project.

2004.10: Creating Faith Based Principles for Immigration Reform
2004 Journal, pp. 91-94
Submitted by the Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS We recognize and celebrate the fact that America is a continent inhabited by many immigrant peoples. We are motivated by the firm belief that newcomers offer new energy, hope and cultural diversity to our communities and our nation.

WHEREAS Since 1998, more than 2000 migrants--men, women, and Children have lost their lives in remote border regions trying to cross from Mexico into the United States. In Arizona alone, a record 200 plus died in 2003

WHEREAS we are deeply impacted by the suffering, conflict and death occurring in our border region and we believe such death and suffering diminish us all.

WHEREAS we share a faith that transcends borders and calls us to overcome all forms of discrimination and violence and to build relationships grounded in justice and love.

WHEREAS common commitment to our faith inspired by the vision of God's community and the love of neighbor unites us and moves us to search for ways that favor a change in our current immigration policies.

WHEREAS the Bible has many passages that support providing hospitality to the migrant, "For the lord your God is God of gods and the lord of lords, the great God ... who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Deut. 10: 17-19

WHEREAS we believe that fundamental human rights are to be extended to all migrant workers, both documented and undocumented.

WHEREAS the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church direct us to advocate for the rights of all migrants and applaud their efforts toward responsible self organization and self determination. (Book of Discipline The Economic Community and Migrant Workers 163:F)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church affirm our faith as we set forth the following principles to guide the development of public policy and the structures and institutions of public life with respect to the treatment of Migrants.

1) Re-Evaluation of the United States of America Border Enforcement Strategy for undocumented persons that will result in a more humane treatment of persons crossing our border.

2) Employment based migration. Promote a responsible guest worker program. A new worker program should be created to allow migrant workers and their families to enter the U.S. and work in a safe, legal, orderly, and humane manner. Such a program would help stabilize
immigrant families (many of which are of “mixed” status), especially those who have lived in the United States for some time. It also would help stabilize the labor force, allowing both foreign-born and U.S. workers to better assert their rights in the workplace.

3) Advocate for appropriate worker protections and wages. Include enforcement mechanisms to protect workers’ rights. Workers should have the right to change jobs, travel safely and easily between the U.S. and their homelands, and accrue Social Security benefits.

4) Preserve family unity. Migrants entering the United States not only to find employment, but also to reunite with family members need a path to residency which is achievable and independently verifiable. Family reunification backlogs should be reduced. Presently, it takes eight years for a spouse and child to legally join a Mexican permanent resident living in the United States. This can lead to family and social breakdown and force many family members to make a cruel and unacceptable choice: either wait in line for several years or attempt to cross the dangerous border. These waiting times must be reduced so that families can be reunited and the principle of family unity maintained.

5) Promote aid and trade strategies for sustainable economic development in sending communities. Root causes of migration, such as economic and trade inequities, should be addressed. Our country should focus more attention on promoting sustainable economic development in sending nations so that living-wage employment is created which sustains families and communities. In addition, the United States should consider the impact international trade agreements have on the employment of low-income workers in Latin America.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church activate our faith based response by joining other faith based individuals and human rights organizations providing hospitality and humanitarian assistance to those crossing the border.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, motivated by faith, acknowledge the 18th of December, the day the United Nations General Assembly officially proclaimed as International Migrant’s Day by encouraging our churches to greatly increase the number of clergy, religious leaders and church communities to set time in their worship services on Sunday, December 19th 2004 or another date of the local church's choice to support the Faith Based Principals of Immigration Reform.

2004.45: Creation of Young People’s Ministry Task Force

WHEREAS the General Church has establish a precedent for the evaluation of youth and young adult ministries in the from of the Division of Ministries with Young People,

WHEREAS current structures unifying youth and young adult ministries in the Desert. Southwest Annual Conference are inadequate for the large task of effective ministry towards young people,

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church affirms young people as vital members of the Church and leaders of the both today and tomorrow,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference establish a task force to be convened by Strategic Planning to evaluate existing structures for Young People’s Ministry and purpose new structure and vision for ministry for youth and young adults in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this task force be made up of the following:

2 members of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries
2 members of the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries
2 members of the Committee on Children and Youth Ministries
2 members of the Committee on Higher Education & Campus Ministry
1 Conference Staff person
1 Member of the Cabinet
1 additional member from the Covenant Council
1 additional youth member-at-large member
1 additional young adult at-large member

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference Task Force on Ministries with Young People report back to the 2005 Annual Conference with their findings and recommendations.

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**2004.55: Recycling at DSW and District Events**

WHEREAS we as Christians are called to be responsible stewards of the earth,
WHEREAS at meetings such as our Annual Conference we generate a great amount of trash,
WHEREAS some of the trash items are recyclable,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference assure that recyclables we generate are collected and delivered to the appropriate recycling facilities.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provisions be made for recycling at official District and DSW Conference meetings.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each church be encouraged to recycle.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that if this resolution is passed, Rev. Joyce Steiner will work with the Desert Southwest Annual Conference so as to carry out the logistics of this resolution.

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**2005.10**

WHEREAS; The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. *(Social Principles, 2005)*
WHEREAS; We have an obligation to interpret the need for local Churches to address social issues and provide support and resources to local Churches as they seek to develop and broaden their ministries of public witness, advocacy and action.
WHEREAS; The General Board of Church and Society e-mails, *Action Networks* (Alerts and Updates) to interested persons. These Alerts provide information on the following Issues/Topics;

Alcohol and other Addictions
Civil and Human Rights
Environmental Justice
Peace with Justice
Women and Population
Child Advocacy
Economic Justice
Health and Welfare
United Nations/International Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED THAT; The list of Church Officers provided at Church/Charge Conference include a position of Chairperson of Church and Society and/or contact person, including an e-mail to receive *Action Networks*, and legislative updates from Annual Conference.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; That a sign-up list be provided at all Charge/Church Conferences for any interested person to receive the Action Networks e-mail and legislative updates from Conference.

2005.15: Protecting Human and Civil Rights
2005 Journal, p. 59

WHERAS, it is the responsibility of the Church to be in active ministry with homosexual persons, no less than heterosexual persons in all their respective challenges and dimensions of life, and
WHERAS, the constitution of the state of Arizona has been established in an attempt to ensure the rights of all citizens of the state, and
WHERAS, the formation of families has been supported by many civil guarantees including protecting the rights of couples to health benefits, hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights, child custody rights and many others, and
WHERAS, same sex couples of the state of Arizona are already denied many of these rights, and
WHERAS, the ballot initiatives currently being proposed to amend the state constitution will further erode these rights,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District Superintendent of each of the districts of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference recruit a minimum of five churches per district to study the biblical, theological and social implications of the proposed ballot initiative to amend the Arizona State Constitution. The purpose of this study will be to inform the members of our local churches about the likelihood of good or harm to the civil rights of the citizens of our state. The recommendations of the 20 churches will be presented for study and discussion at the 2006 Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

2006.10
2006 Journal, p. 64

WHERAS The Gospels affirm the radical inclusion of all persons in the Body of Christ; and
WHERAS Paragraph 214 of the Book of Discipline states “All people may attend... worship services (in the United Methodist Church), participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church in the connection.” (p. 134); and
WHERAS Paragraph 225 of the Book of Discipline states “A member in good standing in any Christian denomination who has been baptized and who desires to unite with the United Methodist Church may be received as either a baptized or professing member by a proper certificate of transfer from that person’s former church, or by a declaration of Christian faith, and upon affirming willingness to be loyal to the United Methodist Church.” (p. 139); and
WHERAS no citation, footnote, paragraph, or provision in the Book of Discipline excludes any person from membership in The United Methodist Church; and
WHERAS the theme of the current evangelism campaign of the United Methodist Church is “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.”
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, affirming the historic inclusivity of the Christian faith as expressed in the gospels, and the inclusivity of the United Methodist Church regarding membership of all persons as expressed in the Book of Discipline, expresses its profound disagreement with any action that prevents persons willing to take the vows of membership from becoming members of the United Methodist Church; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, the Conference Board of Church and Society be directed to develop a petition to
the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, stating that all persons willing to take
the vows of membership are welcome as members in the United Methodist Church; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary send copies of this resolution to the Judicial
Council, the Council of Bishops, all Annual Conferences in the United Methodist Church, and all
congregations in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

2006.15
2006 Journal, pp. 64-65
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, over 40 million persons globally are living with HIV and AIDS, and 9,000 people die from AIDS
every day; and
WHEREAS, every month the death toll from AIDS surpasses the total deaths from the terrible Asian
tsunami; 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 United Nations has declared the pandemic a global emergency, saying human life is
threatened everywhere and world security is at risk as the world faces the worst health crisis in 700
years;
WHEREAS, for twenty years the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has spoken with
prophetic compassion to the global issue of HIV/AIDS;
WHEREAS, the General Conference committed itself to establishing the United Methodist Global AIDS
Fund (Advance Special #982345) and established a goal of raising $8 million during the 2005-8
quadrennium;
WHEREAS, one-fourth of funds raised within our Annual Conference for this Fund remain within the
Conference.
WHEREAS, this goal equates to one dollar per member of The United Methodist Church over the
quadrennium.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest commits to raising one dollar per church
member of the Conference and that 75% of the dollars raised be remitted by the conference
treasurer to the treasurer of the General Council of Finance and Administration for the UMC Global
AIDS Fund and that the remaining 25% be retained for programs combating HIV/AIDS in the annual
conference.
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: each local church observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday in
September each year for the remainder of this quadrennium, that a Conference Global AIDS
Committee be authorized to (a) provide educational and promotional materials for this observance,
and (b) that the Board of Church and Society determine the distribution of the 25% of the funds
designated for conference use.

2006.35
2006 Journal, p. 65
WHEREAS…"the United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice...its members
having taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles.” (Preface to
“Social Principles”)
WHEREAS:...we are reminded through all our ministries in the spirit of our biblical tradition:
Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt. (Exodus 32:9, New International Version)

WHEREAS: ...our Judaeo/Christian tradition defines “hospitality” and inclusiveness as a foundational expression of our faith at work, and

WHEREAS: “the church must address the legal, economic, social and human rights conditions of people who are legal or undocumented immigrants (Gen. Conf. resolution # 266)”, and

WHEREAS: “it [the United Methodist Church] must oppose the introduction of legislation by Congress or any state that would cause human suffering and a denial of such individual’s rights as interpreted through our biblical understanding of God’s grace to all people, but especially to the sojourner,” (Resolution 266, 2004 Book of Resolutions) and

WHEREAS: “our faith, grounded in Christ and in the Wesleyan call to work for prophetic justice, calls us to follow our Social Principles and respond in appropriate and direct ways to prevent harm to the sojourner and

WHEREAS: the sealing of our borders to illegal immigrants has created life-threatening circumstances for those migrants (sojourners) seeking sanctuary and opportunity in the United States, thus resulting in hundreds of deaths.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference do earnestly and faithfully study and implement the “resolutions” (contained the The Book of Resolutions—2004) of the United Methodist Church concerning immigration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a “study guide” be provided to each Church through our Conference Office, and that Churches determine individually how they will utilize this guide to make action commitments addressing this issue, recognizing that such implementation will be more an expression of faith than of political persuasion.

2006.20

2006 Journal, p. 65

WHEREAS: United Methodist members believe that all people are created equal (also stated in the Bill of Rights) and: that all people on earth are brothers and sisters and: that the story of the Good Samaritan is an imperative for us all: and

WHEREAS: United Methodists believe that “Love your neighbor” transcends any legal, moral, or misguided attempts to but barriers or restrictions of any kind on simple acts of human goodness;

THEREFORE WE AFFIRM: and ask that it be resolved that there can be no interference of any type to the humane, right action of aiding anyone in distress in the desert or anywhere else, nor can there be any punishment for such right action

THEREFUR BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary communicate this resolution to the elected officials of our three states.

2006.30

2006 Journal, p. 66

WHEREAS Christians have always been people of the covenant. WHEREAS no where in scripture are people prohibited from making covenants or committed promises to each other.

WHEREAS people who live in covenant should be able to exercise that commitment in hospital visitation, inheritance matters, child custody and other family matters without interference from the State.

WHEREAS marriages are threatened by forces within marriage such as infidelity, violence, addictions, lack of communication and commitment, not how marriage is defined.
WHERAS it is the responsibility of the Church to be in active ministry with homosexual persons, no less than heterosexual persons in all their respective challenges and dimensions of life, and

WHERAS the Constitution of the State of Arizona has been established in an attempt to ensure the rights of all citizens of the State, and

WHERAS the formation of families has been supported by many civil guarantees including protecting the rights of couples to health benefits, hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights, child custody rights and many others, and

WHERAS same sex couples of the State of Arizona are already denied many of these rights, and

WHERAS the proposed Constitutional Amendment reads:

"To preserve and protect marriage in this State, only a union between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage by this state or its political subdivisions and no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created or recognized by this state or its political subdivisions that is similar to that of marriage."

WHERAS Arizona voters are being asked to support a Constitutional amendment the result of which will prohibit the State, counties, cities and school districts from offering employee benefits for unmarried partners, straight or gay, and this ballot initiative targets Arizonans who live together for financial and other reasons. It would prevent such couples from obtaining any legal recognition, including policies necessary for medical safety and retirement. Further, it would seize the decision making authority of local communities and force repeal of domestic partner benefits now provided by the cities of Phoenix, Tucson, Scottsdale and Tempe

WHERAS the ballot initiatives currently being proposed to amend the State Constitution will further erode these rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference oppose this Amendment and we ask the Conference Secretary to communicate this resolution to all elected State officials and major media in Arizona markets.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that political leaders and faith communities be challenged to focus their energies on the forces such as those named above that are truly undermining marriages and destroying families.

2007.00: Right to Worship

Whereas the theme of the evangelism campaign is Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

WHEREAS the life teaching and resurrection of Jesus invites all people to receive the grace of God

WHEREAS within the United Methodist church many people are being denied access to worship by local congregations and church leaders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the right to be welcomed into the community of the church or the right (ability) to worship in the house of God should not be denied to any persons based on any social status or previous social decisions.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no person should be excluded from worship and/or participation in the life of the church on the basis of race, ethnicity, economic status, sexual orientation, or history.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation be forwarded on to General Conference for inclusion in the Book of Resolutions.
2007.30: The National Plan For Hispanic/Latino Ministry
2007 Journal, pp. 60-61

WHEREAS, the Hispanic-American population continues to increase at an annual rate of 3.3% to a total now of over 43 million persons and by 2005 it was accounting for half of all the annual population growth in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic American population is not only the fastest growing segment of the population but also the youngest with an average age of 27 compared to the national average of 36 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the latest Bureau of the Census figures show that Hispanic/Latino population growth can be accounted equally from natural growth and immigration, and is found in urban, suburban, and rural sectors of the country as well as spreading across all regions of the country; and

WHEREAS, God and our Wesleyan heritage calls United Methodists as part of the Church of Jesus Christ to be in ministry with people of all races, nationalities, ethnic groups and social classes, and reach out to them with open doors, open minds, and open hearts; and

WHEREAS, many United Methodist annual conferences are working toward fulfillment of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry’s goals, including the development of faith communities and community ministries, new church starts and revitalization of established congregations, and the development of lay and clergy leadership to support and expand those ministries; and

WHEREAS, 36 annual conferences have partnered with the National Plan to work together toward those goals through mission initiative grants, and the development of strategic implementation plans; and

WHEREAS, the General Council on Finance and Administration has reported a Hispanic/Latino United Methodist membership growth of 6% last year, the sixth consecutive year of such growth; and

WHEREAS, the National Plan is ready to respond to this fast growth of the Hispanic/Latino population through the resources, learnings and experience accumulated to date, and is proposing a renewed emphasis on resourcing annual conferences in the areas of new church starts, Non-Hispanic congregations reaching out to Hispanics, and assisting the United Methodist Church in addressing critical issues such as immigration and lay and clergy leadership development; and

WHEREAS, the Western Jurisdiction has one of the fastest-growing Hispanic populations in the United States with more than 22,000,000 and one of the most culturally diverse Hispanic constituencies; and

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference area has over 2,100,000 Hispanics within its borders; and

WHEREAS, the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry continues to provide resources, facilitators, expertise and training for the Desert Southwest Conference Hispanic/Latino Ministries and local churches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the Twentieth Third Annual Conference, DATE, the June 7-10, 2007 Conference affirms the continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry for the 2008-2012 quadrennium; and

FURTHERMORE, let it be resolved that the Desert Southwest Conference requests the 2008 General Conference to approve the continuation of the plan and provide sufficient funds to fulfill its goals.

2008.10: Call for Campus Ministry & Young Adult Taskforce
2008 Journal, p. 56

WHEREAS the strategic direction of the Desert Southwest Conference is to develop new leaders and new faith communities, especially in order to reach young adults and equip them for leadership in our churches.
WHEREAS the Wesley Foundation of Tucson has seen a growth of 1100% in student participation since beginning full-time campus ministry three years ago, and Phoenix Valley ministry has seen a 400% increase in student participation in the first six months under the leadership of a full-time pastor. WHEREAS campus ministries are mentoring a growing number of first-career students into ordained ministry.

WHEREAS as a conference we have the potential in reaching an untold number of students and young adults in the four major university cities (Flagstaff, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson) as students with the United Methodist and other backgrounds come from all over the world to live and study and seek out Christian community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the conference assemble a taskforce charged with the responsibility of reexamining the relationship of the conference to the campus ministries, their long-term financial stability, future funding (options/opportunities?), expansion and establishment of additional ministries, and the benefits campus ministry and young adults bring to our annual conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this taskforce be comprised of, but not limited to: campus ministers, students, young adults, pastors of campus churches, a cabinet representative, the director of connectional ministries, the chair of the Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministry and a representative from the Committee on Finance Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this taskforce report its recommendations back to the 2009 session of the Annual Conference for action.

WHEREAS Christians and United Methodists, we are concerned for the care and well being of the children and youth in our care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference approve guidelines for Safe Sanctuaries for all Conference events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every church in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference approve guidelines for Safe Sanctuaries in the local church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference guideline approved by Covenant Council, 3-8-08, be used as a model.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every church in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference shall have a Safe Sanctuaries policy in place by June 1, 2009.

WHEREAS: Isaiah 26:6b-7

All who keep the Sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Hebrews 13:1-2 —Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

WHEREAS: The Desert Southwest Annual Conference is a part of the Western Jurisdiction.

WHEREAS: We want to affirm ourselves as working with all the Annual Conferences within this Jurisdiction,

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference support the Western Jurisdiction in naming and working for the jurisdictional theme of “Extravagant Hospitality” for the
quadrennium 2008-2012. We will support and encourage participation in the following commitments taken by the Western Jurisdictional Conference:

COMMITIONS: To extend our hospitality, we will commit ourselves to:

- Local Churches: Encourage every local church in the Desert Southwest Conference to find one way to extend hospitality beyond the present level of their church’s ministry.
- Website Communication: Utilize the WJ website to inspire, communicate, inform, guide, share stories, and resource the jurisdictional efforts to expand hospitality.
- Jurisdictional Event: Participate in a jurisdictional training event sponsored by the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team in which people worship, engage in biblical study on hospitality, and participate in dynamic workshops.
- Annual Conference Themes: Participate in the year in which all of the annual conferences of the Western Jurisdiction would collaboratively celebrate the theme of Extravagant Hospitality.
- Resources: Produce or participate in producing one or more resources during the quadrennium, such as a Biblical study of hospitality, a local church study, or a book of sermons.

IMPLEMENTATION: To implement these plans, we will support the WJ in these efforts:

- Communications: Utilize any items developed by the Jurisdictional Director of Communications such as a section or link on the WJ website to communicate and resource our theme of “extravagant hospitality.” This may include stories, sermons, and resources to support the theme.
- Jurisdictional Event: Attend a jurisdictional event on extravagant hospitality sponsored by the Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee.

2009.15: Desert Southwest Conference is in Ministry to All of God’s Children

Presented by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society
(This petition is based on the petition passed by the Western Jurisdictional Conference titled “Western Jurisdiction in Ministry to All of God’s Children.”)


About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. 12In it were all kinds of four footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. 13Then he heard a voice saying, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” 14But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.” 15The voice said to him again, a second time, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” 16This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven. 17Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 18So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 19saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 20Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 21“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 22As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 23I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 24But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 25But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 26This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 27At that very moment three men, sent to me from
Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

WHEREAS: We believe that “All means all” as stated in The Book of Discipline ¶4,
WHEREAS: We understand that we must stand for our convictions,
THEREFORE: We resolve to be in unity with others in the West by affirming our stand:

We are United Methodists of the Desert Southwest Conference in the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. We are called to be "a home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation."

As the church in the midst of human diversity, God has blessed us with many kinds of differences, including diversities of sexual orientation and gender identity. We now proclaim that those diversities of gender identity and sexual orientation are good elements of God’s creation.

In particular, we affirm that many of our clergy and congregations are being called upon to witness to God’s enduring love by being in ministry with people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. We encourage all clergy, laity and congregations to be compassionate and bold in their welcome, ministry, and love with all people, trusting that we, the clergy and laity of the Desert Southwest, do not expect our leaders to withhold ministry from anyone. We charge our clergy, laity and congregations to consider seriously the example of Jesus, who was willing to set aside religious standards of holiness in the interest of a ministry that reached out to all people.

We are aware of the polity of our denomination which demands that "ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

We declare that we will be in full ministry with all who come to us. We ask that all those who are asked to minister to those who are marginalize by the polity will find creative ways to implement our intention.

Furthermore, in order to prepare for future changes in the denomination we challenge the leadership in the Desert Southwest working with the Covenant Council to equip, empower, recruit, and appoint effective leaders to inclusive and welcoming churches and to establish new inclusive and welcoming communities.

Here we stand; we can do no other.

2009.20: To be a Reconciling and Welcoming Conference
2009 Journal, pp. 65-68

Presented by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society
(This petition is based on the petition passed by the Western Jurisdiction Conference titled “Western Jurisdiction as a Reconciling and Welcoming Jurisdiction.”)

WHEREAS: II Corinthians 5:17-20
17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting
their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

WHEREAS: We in the Desert Southwest Conference are part of the Western Jurisdiction,
WHEREAS: We will follow the leadership of the Western Jurisdiction in creating a welcoming church,
WHEREAS: The leadership of our Jurisdiction has declared itself to be reconciling and welcoming,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We shall participate in declaring that in the spirit of "We Will Not Be Silent" adopted by the 2000 and 2004 sessions of the Western Jurisdiction, we in the Desert Southwest will continue our witness to the denomination and challenge the wisdom of recent decisions made at General Conference 2008 in Fort Worth, Texas. We will support our churches as they welcome everyone.

We stand with our gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/questioning (glbtq) brothers and sisters, both lay and clergy, who have been shunned by the United Methodist Church in polity and in deed. We stand with our leaders who must hide an essential part of who they are in order to serve the church.

We stand with hope, not for the future, but for our ministry in this time, in our places where people long to be welcomed and included in our communities of faith.

We will stand with those who long to be recognized in their relationships, and long to be a part of the church at large.

We will stand with the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church as it names and claims our ministries as welcoming and reconciling throughout the jurisdiction. Our doors are open to all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, our hearts are open to those who have been shunned, our minds are open to radical obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even when at odds with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, in order to further the work of God's justice and the creation of the beloved community.

Knowing that we are not all alike, but that we do intend to love alike, we recognize that this statement is made of courage, not agreement; this statement is made on faith, not law; and this action is taken to further the witness of The United Methodist Church, not to disregard its importance.

STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN JURISDICTION
WE WILL NOT BE SILENT
A DECLARATION FROM THE WESTERN JURISDICTION
Meeting in Casper, Wyoming, July 12-15, 2000

We of the Western Jurisdiction for the United Methodist Church have heard the call of the prophet Micah “to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” We have heard Jesus’ invitation for all to come to the banquet table of God’s abundant grace.

Certain actions of the General Conference 2000 have caused tremendous pain for individuals and communities and have resulted in an attempt to suppress our prophetic and pastoral ministries among all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

The votes may have been cast but our voices will not be silent. Our jurisdictional vision calls us to be “a home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation. ¹”Affirming the statement of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church, we acknowledge that there may be differences of opinion among us, but this does not require that we wait on justice.” ²“We cannot accept discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons and, therefore, we will work toward their full participation at all levels in the life of the church and society. Valuing the voices of those who disagree, we will continue to be in dialogue as we journey together in creative tension. We will continue to be in ministry with all God’s children

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and celebrate the gifts diversity brings. We will continue to feast at table with all God’s children."


Additions, 2004
WE WILL NOT BE SILENT!
WE WILL BUILD A TABLE, MAKE A HOME, AND CLAIM A VISION

We, as a Jurisdictional Conference, invite the United Methodist community of the Western Jurisdiction, joyously and boldly to work together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people. We intend to see our church grow, both at the "center" of its ministry and the "edges" of society. To this end, we, as a Jurisdiction reaffirm our commitment to evangelism which includes sharing the embracing love of Jesus with the millions of persons who live within our boundaries and growing the church.

Our Plan of Action
1. We will not be silent concerning poverty. More and more people are living in poverty in our communities. Every United Methodist, and every United Methodist Church is invited to join us in developing personal action plans to provide hospitality to the poor within our churches as well as to prevent poverty and to counter the effects of poverty within the communities served by our churches. We recommend The Council of Bishops resources concerning Children and Poverty as excellent resources for planning a shared ministry in this area.

2. We will not be silent concerning racism. Racial and cultural isolation remains a problem for our ministries. We call upon all United Methodists and United Methodist churches to join us in developing personal action plans for building hospitality and gracious welcome across the divisions of race, language, and culture. We seek a dramatic increase in the number of cross racial/cultural appointments. We invite all in our churches to develop personal plans for building racial justice locally and globally.

3. We will not be silent concerning full participation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender persons at all levels in our church and society. We call upon United Methodists to join us in making deliberate plans for hospitality to include LGBT persons in the leadership of our Church. We invite local churches to make clear their willingness to support and celebrate a pastor who is "out" concerning his/her sexual identity. We will seek to remove all discrimination against persons based upon sexual identity.

4. We will not be silent concerning discrimination against people with different mental and physical abilities. Accessibility remains a problem in many of our ministry settings; therefore, we urge church bodies to be sensitive to people with different mental and physical challenges. An accessibility plan needs to be developed for every ministry facility, including campuses, churches, and church agencies. Communication tools need to be expanded to relate more fully with people who have physical, learning, hearing, and visual challenges.

To Implement This Plan in the Western Jurisdiction
A. Each Conference delegation commits to lead through out the quadrennium in a process of soulsearching within the churches of its conference concerning hospitality and to develop its own action plans of implementation.

B. We celebrate that “Bishops are to be prophetic voices and courageous leaders in the cause of justice for all people” (The 2000 Book of Discipline ¶ 404.1.) We call upon our bishop to provide outspoken and challenging leadership within our Conference in the above four areas and urge our Committee on Episcopacy to offer support for our Bishop as she takes courageous leadership on our behalf.
C. We will commit to follow the actions of the Western Jurisdictional Leadership Team, College of Bishops, and jurisdictional committees as they report on the progress of this work in our jurisdiction. We will listen as the Leadership Team considers ways and means for securing staff support to facilitate this work, e.g. employed, volunteered with expense support, shared by annual conferences, or other possibilities. We will commit ourselves to encouraging and supporting these plans.

2009.25: Resolution on Human Sexuality

2009 Journal, pp. 68-69
Presented by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society
(This petition is based on the petition passed by the Western Jurisdictional Conference titled “Resolution on Human Sexuality in Western Jurisdiction.”)
WHEREAS: Corinth 12: 12-13 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
Colossians 3:11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!
WHEREAS: We believe that all people are the creation of God,
WHEREAS: We join with the Western Jurisdiction’s statement that the statements in the Book of Discipline need to be changed,
WHEREAS: We believe that change will come through our efforts,
WHEREAS: We therefore join with others in stating our faith and our goals for the future
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
We will follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit and affirm language that communicates a more authentic and truthful representation of the United Methodist Church, acknowledging that we disagree yet all seek a faithful witness and remain in love with God and in ministry together.
The Desert Southwest, in searching its collective heart, and in responsibility to our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, affirms the statement known as The Majority Report, adopted by the Human Sexuality Sub-Committee and the larger Church & Society II Legislative Committee of the General Conference on April 27, 2008, in keeping with Wesley’s general rules to do no harm, and to do good for the glory of God. This statement was and is a product of honest and genuine holy conferencing and represents a reflection of both grace and truth of which United Methodists throughout our connection can be proud. The spirit of this statement is clearly the heart of our future and a reflection, we believe, of the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

(A Statement on Human Sexuality as adopted by Church & Society II Legislative Committee, General Conference, April 27, 2008)
We recognize that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We believe persons may be fully human only when that gift is acknowledged and affirmed by themselves, the church, and society. We call all persons to the disciplined, responsible fulfillment of themselves, others, and society in the stewardship of this gift. We also recognize our limited understanding of this complex gift and encourage the medical, theological, and social science disciplines to combine in a determined effort to understand human sexuality more completely. United Methodists, along with other Christians, have struggled to find principles for applying traditional teachings to contemporary understandings of human sexuality.
We recognize that sexuality is part of the larger human mystery, to be received and acknowledged in grateful responsibility. We reject all sexual expressions that damage or destroy the humanity God has given us. We deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sexual relations, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible. We call for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for children thus abused. We believe that the Church family should support all families in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We challenge all members of our community of faith to commitment, integrity and fidelity in their sexual relationships.

We know that all are God’s children and of sacred worth; yet we have been, and remain, divided regarding homosexual expressions of human sexuality. Faithful, thoughtful people who have grappled with this issue deeply disagree with one another; yet all seek a faithful witness. We continue to reason and pray together with faith and hope that the Holy Spirit will soon bring reconciliation to our community of faith. The fire in our disagreements points to a deeper human mystery than we knew. We believe that the Spirit has brought our collective conscience to acknowledge this mystery more honestly, and to make our claims with greater humility before God and our neighbors. We therefore ask the Church, United Methodist and others, and the world, to refrain from judgment regarding homosexual persons and practices as the Spirit leads us to new insight. Let us seek to welcome, know, forgive, and love one another as Christ has accepted us, that God may be glorified through everything in our lives.

**Rationale:** The 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church convened under the theme “A Future With Hope” and, beginning with the opening worship service, expressed a new and genuine spirit to move beyond some of the language of the past and affirm new language that is more faithful to witnesses from both past and current holy conferencing, as well as our Scriptural call to live the gospel in the Spirit of Christ.

The members of the General Conference Legislative Committee known as Church & Society II were prayerfully selected to represent a broad scope of faithful United Methodists, both clergy and laity and from all parts of the theological spectrum, in their task of considering petitions submitted by United Methodists spanning our global connection.

The General Conference’s Church & Society II Sub-commitTEE entitled Human Sexuality engaged in lengthy, thorough, and genuine holy conferencing around the subject of Human Sexuality found in ¶161 G of *The Book of Discipline*.

Affirming this statement will allow the Desert Southwest Conference to move forward, fully embracing “A Future of Hope” because it expresses a respectful middle ground in an attitude of seeking understanding and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to let this statement guide our own relationships with one another in this jurisdiction with our surrounding culture.

**2009.30: Standing in Solidarity**

2009 Journal, pp. 69-70

Submitted by the Native American Committee on Ministries; Conference Commission on Religion & Race

WHEREAS, the Havasupai Tribe has the third highest diabetes rate in the world. Some members of the tribe have had amputations of legs, feet, and toes. First, the disease affected the older adults, and some died. Then, younger adults began to experience the same disease their parents died of, and now, their children are also being diagnosed with diabetes; and
WHEREAS, in 1990, the tribe turned to John Martin for help. John taught at Arizona State University beginning in 1966, and lived among the Supai in the 60’s. He studied the tribe, became acquainted with the elders, mapped their complete lineage, and earned his doctorate form the University of Chicago with a thesis on the tribe. The tribe requested help from John so they could get a better understanding diabetes, and how they could help their members. The Havasupai people do not trust many outsiders, but since John had lived with them and studied them, they trusted him and knew he would help them; and

WHEREAS, some of John's colleagues at Arizona State University subsequently took advantage of the tribe. The Havasupai say that the ASU research was "genetic piracy," defrauding and betraying them for personal and professional gain. Specifically, the tribe charges:

- The tribe had authorized the use of their blood only for diabetes research, and while some basic, routine testing was done, no significant genetic research on diabetes ever took place.
- The blood of tribal members was used to study schizophrenia, and the Bering Strait theory of Indian migration - a study that asserts that North American Natives aren't natives, but immigrants from Asia who came across a land bridge.
- Another unauthorized study used their handprints to look for patterns of inbreeding.
- Although the tribe was promised that their blood would be kept "under lock and key" at ASU, it was sent to universities and private labs around the country.
- Medical files of tribal members, kept at the Indian Health Service Clinic in Supai, were raided at night to look for signs of schizophrenia in specific individuals; and

WHEREAS, the tribe states that these actions have been disastrous for them. According to Tribal Chairman Don E. Watahomgie, many tribal members now are "so distrustful" that they refuse to seek any medical or diagnostic care. The tribe has filed a lawsuit that has been through five courts - both state and federal - although the merits of the actual case have never been argued. The case currently sits in the Arizona Court of Appeals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Native American Committee on Ministries and the Conference Commission on Religion and Race of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church under the leadership of the Native American Committee on Ministries, asks that the Desert Southwest Conference stand in solidarity with the Havasupai Tribe, covenanting to pray for them and support them in this situation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church ask the boards noted below to send letters to Arizona State University and other institutions who have used blood samples and handprints collected by Dr. Martin for use other than Diabetic research. These letters shall: ask for an apology to the tribe; strongly condemn the actions regarding the misuse of the samples; and ask that any continuing unauthorized research be immediately stopped. The same boards shall send a letter to the Arizona Court of Appeals, strongly recommending that the case of the Havasupai tribe be heard as soon as possible. These boards shall include but are not limited to: Desert Southwest Conference Native American Committee on Ministries, Conference Commission on Religion & Race and the Conference Board of Church & Society.

2009.35: OASIS Resolution

2009 Journal, p. 71
Submitted by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries

WHEREAS in the Gospel of Matthew, 25:35-36 & 40, Jesus teaches: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me... just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”; and
WHEREAS paragraph 166 of the *Book of Discipline, “Our Social Creed,”* states, in part, “We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life, and to the rights and dignity of all persons.”; and
WHEREAS within our annual conference, there are many youth who are currently homeless, who have no reliable source of food, shelter, clothing, education, medical care, adult mentoring and supervision; and
WHEREAS these youth are at extremely high risk for addiction, disease, pregnancy, and early death. If they survive, it is very unlikely that they will be able to overcome homelessness and poverty, if they do not receive the care, shelter, education, and stable nurturing environment that they lack; and
WHEREAS Agencies, congregations, and affiliated organizations of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, even in these troubled economic times, have programs and resources that can help bring youth and families out of homelessness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, at the request of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM), shall initiate an *Oasis* ministry, whose mission will be to lead homeless youth out of homelessness. The effect of this ministry will be that each congregation in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will have a plan for responding to homeless youth and / or families. This ministry shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Compiling a database of all United Methodist agencies, congregations, affiliated organizations, and community organizations who currently offer assistance to homeless youth and families;
2. Working with connectional leadership to share this information, and to encourage the initiation of ministries for homeless youth and families where none currently exist;
3. Offering information and / or workshops at Conference youth events, such as YPC and JHC, Youth Worker Training Events, and Conference Youth Camps, equipping youth and youth leaders to respond effectively to homeless youth and families;
4. Equipping all local congregations and youth ministries with information about programs in their area that can aid homeless youth and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference shall report to the CCYM by March 1st, describing how *Oasis* has been implemented in their congregation, and/or a timeline for its implementation.

**2010.00: Persons With Special Needs**

WHEREAS in the Gospel of Matthew, 25:35-36 & 40, Jesus teaches “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me. . . just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. . .”

WHEREAS paragraph 166 of the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, “Our Social Creed,”* states, in part, “We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth young adults, the aging and people with disabilities to improvement of the quality of life, and to the rights and dignity of all persons.”

WHEREAS: the term “people or persons with disabilities” implies that these persons have ‘no abilities’ and casts a negative and patronizing view of persons with special needs.

WHEREAS: when persons with special needs have accommodations made, most are ABLE to participate more fully in the life and ministry of the church.

WHEREAS: the church is a community of people who are always seeking to become more inclusive and welcoming.
WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church is always seeking ways to, “Open Hearts, Open Minds” so we open our doors,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that all Desert Southwest documents and writing replace the phrase, “persons with disabilities” to the more welcoming and inclusive phrase, “persons with special needs,” unless such wording would result in confusion or funding with government and/or medical services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Conference Board of Church and Society petition the 2010 General Conference to replace the phrase “persons with disabilities” with the phrase “persons with special needs” in their writings and documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that all congregations of the United Methodist Church look at how they are serving and making accommodations for persons with special needs so they can participate in the life and ministry of their church and report their findings to the 2011 session of their church conference.

Accommodations may include:
Large print bulletins/worship guides, newsletters
Amplified hearing devices
Sign language interpreter
Friend, buddy or coach in the church to be a special friend and work with the person with special needs/challenges to participate in a ministry
Education classes to help persons in your church understand persons with special needs/challenges
Wheel chair and ramp at church to assist persons with challenges walking
Multisensory approach to worship services and classes

2011.00: Annual Conference Support of “20/20: Visioning An AIDS-Free World”
2011 Journal, p. 68

WHEREAS, the global HIV and AIDS pandemic has for more than 30 years been impacting the world, particularly among the poor and the marginalized, and the General Conference has established the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund which has supported more than 175 HIV and AIDS church oriented and Christ-centered ministries in 37 countries, and

WHEREAS, more than 30 million people are infected world-wide, almost 50% of whom are women, and more than 15 million children are orphaned, and information about the global health crisis and the church response are available on www.umglobalaidsfund.org, and

WHEREAS, Jesus called his disciples to “heal every disease and sickness” (Matthew 10:1) and John Wesley instructed his followers to treat the sick without stigma or discrimination, and

WHEREAS, a gift as small as $20 can stop the transmission of HIV from several mothers to their newborn babies, supply nutrients to 20 HIV positive children suffering from dehydration, ensure nursing care for a newborn infant born with AIDS, teach young people and adults how to prevent HIV, feed an HIV positive person for a month so they can take powerful medicines, and provide free Upper Room biblical readings and prayers for those infected and affected.

THEREFORE, since the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee has launched a campaign entitled “20/20: Visioning An AIDS-Free World,” the Desert Southwest Conference:
1. Endorses the “20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World” campaign.
2. Calls upon its churches in 2012 to devote at least 30 minutes discussing the pandemic and practical ways each congregation can respond.
3. Commits that 30 minutes of the 2012 Desert Southwest Annual Conference plenary time be devoted to “20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World.”
4. Invites every church member to contribute yearly $20, $200 or more to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Advance #982345. Twenty-five percent of what the annual conference raises should be kept by and used within the conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects.

5. Asks individuals and congregations to join the 2020 Club comprised of those who have committed $2020 by 2020 to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, since words are best matched by action, we urge the 2012 Desert Southwest Annual Conference to take a special offering to support the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (Advance #982345).

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2011.05: Concerning Youth and Mental Health
2011 Journal, p. 69

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Council on Youth Ministries

WHEREAS, the scriptures record how healing of those whose illness brought isolation to themselves and destructive behavior to others was of particular concern to Jesus, as noted in the story of the Healing of the Man of Gadara, in Mark 5:1-34 (\textit{Book of Resolutions}, p. 432); and

WHEREAS, our \textit{Book of Discipline} states “Health is a condition of physical, social, and spiritual wellbeing,” and “The right to health care includes care for persons with...neurological conditions...” (pp. 117-118). And the \textit{Book of Resolutions} reminds us that the ministry John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, “Was grounded in the redemptive ministry of Christ with its focus on healing that involved spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical aspects” (p. 431); and

WHEREAS, on January 8\textsuperscript{th} 2011, a young man opened fire on a group of leaders and citizens in Tucson, Arizona, within our Desert Southwest Conference, killing 6 people and injuring 14 others. Unfortunately, the incident was only the latest of many in which the perpetrators were young people with a history of mental illness that was well known to those around them; and

WHEREAS, as United Methodist Christians, our faith calls us to encourage healing and wholeness in our congregations and communities, and to reach out in love to those who are troubled by mental illness, encouraging them to find a path that will heal, and prevent harm to themselves and others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church require each of its congregations to create a plan for ministry with mentally ill young people, including identifying resources in the congregation and/or community where young people can receive treatment, and offering educational programs addressing mental health issues, either as local churches, or in clusters. The conference also requires that each congregation report back to the CCYM by Annual Conference of 2012 with a description of the plan they have created.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, shall create and send letters to the Arizona, and Nevada Departments of Education, and their Superintendents, requesting that school counseling staff be retained, and that copies of these letters shall be sent to media in the areas of our conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Council Chairs of all Desert Southwest congregations, with a letter stating that their local congregation shall be made aware of the requirements of the resolution. Copies should also be sent to the Council of Bishops, and to the Conference Councils on Youth Ministries of all other United Methodist Annual Conferences.

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2011 Journal, p. 70

Submitted by St. Mark’s UMC, Tucson
Whereas, Psalm 24 confirms that “the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.” and
Whereas, Romans 8 declares that “the creation waits for eager longing for the revelation of the children of God. . . in hope and that creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God,” (Romans 8:19-21) and
WHEREAS, US per capita energy use is approximately twice that of the industrialized nations of Western Europe and Japan, and in relation to densely populated nations, is twelve times that of China, and twenty times that of India, so, while other nations' use has remained flat, US use has increased by 15%, and
WHEREAS, Continuing dependence on foreign sources of energy has had far-reaching implications on US foreign policy and weakened our Moral voice among the nations, and
WHEREAS, Continuing reliance on fossil fuels (such as natural gas and coal) for electric power generation and heating/cooling has resulted in pollution of God's creation and ever increasing generation of greenhouse gasses, and
WHEREAS, Technological advances have continued in both energy conservation and renewable energy. Efficiencies of photovoltaic and solar-heated hot water systems have improved to make their use cost effective, and
WHEREAS, New financing and investment means have been developed which may mean minimal upfront investment for congregations, and
WHEREAS, Renewable energy efficiencies are only achieved when combined with an Energy Conservation program, and
WHEREAS, Installing weatherization and renewable energy infrastructure keeps jobs local and stimulates the local economy, while relying on non-renewable energy sources sends jobs overseas, and
WHEREAS, in 2007 the Desert Southwest Annual Conference approved resolution 21.60 which called upon the congregations of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to be encouraged to educate themselves and members on how to become energy stewards in their churches, and
WHEREAS, God calls people of faith to participate in the restoration of creation, which we can begin to do by using less energy in our churches, by using energy more efficiently, and by shifting from reliance on fossil fuels to use renewable energy sources.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church be encouraged to investigate the “no up-front” cost financing of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy sources and infrastructure, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church provide workshops and information to enable congregations to access and participate in financing for and investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

2011.15: Petition Concerning The Institute on Religion and Democracy

WHEREAS, the Gospels of Jesus Christ implore all of God’s people to love one another, our neighbors, and our enemies, and all followers of Christ are commissioned to “Make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:16); and
WHEREAS, the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), and its committee, UM Action, has characterized mainline churches as "The bulwark of the religious left" and has stated that "The IRD has worked to discredit and diminish the religious left's influence"; and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church, desiring to be a faithful witness for Christ in the society and world in which we live, and to be in connection with the larger family of Christ, created the General
Board of Church and Society, the General Council on Ministries, and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and became a member of the National Council of Churches of Christ and of the World Council of Churches; and
WHEREAS, the IRD’s goals include: “Abolish the General Council on Ministries, (the) General Board of Church and Society, and (the) Commission on the Status and Role of Women,” and curtail United Methodist involvement in the National and World Councils of Churches; and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church, in its desire to share the grace of God in Christ with all people, created financial ministries which support the work of our denomination at all levels, supported by the financial witness of United Methodists around the world; and
WHEREAS, the IRD has solicited and received at least $4,764,000 from conservative foundations outside of United Methodism, and has targeted 50% of its resources at the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, advocacy for social justice has been and is a cornerstone of Methodism; the Social Principles of our denomination are “A prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation” (Book of Discipline, p. 95); and general church boards and agencies have vital roles in creating the powerful witness our Social Principles express; and
WHEREAS, the IRD’s goals include: “The social principles shall be entirely rewritten...(and) General boards and agencies shall not submit resolutions or petitions to General Conference;” and
WHEREAS, representation of the Desert Southwest Conference at general conferences was reduced by 50% at the 2000 General Conference due to IRD supported legislation; and
WHEREAS, the IRD called the 2000 General Conference “the most productive...in 40 years,” in part because “Delegates...voted to reapportion the composition of future general conferences so that declining (and liberal) regions of the church such as the northeast and west coast will receive fewer delegates;” and the IRD is currently promoting an annual conference resolution which would reduce the number of Episcopal areas in the Western Jurisdiction; and
WHEREAS, UM Action Director Mark Tooley, responding to the Council of Bishops document “A Call To Repentance and Peace with Justice,” characterized the Council of Bishops as “Flower children and chronic demonstrators who never really grew up and faced the real sinful world;” Another IRD posting claimed “One of the strongest regiments of this godless army (of the ‘secular left’) is America’s main-stream protestant leaders...the real spirit driving the peace mongering protestant leaders is not pacifism at all. It is the hatred of President Bush and of America itself;” and the IRD has stated, “Irreconcilable differences on essentials are dividing the culture-conforming liberals...from faithful United Methodists...we recommend allowing a gracious exit for those who cannot or will not accept the essential beliefs;” and
WHEREAS, Paragraph 104, section 4 of The Book of Discipline states:
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to work within our diversity while exercising patience and forbearance with one another. Such patience stems neither from indifference toward the truth nor from an indulgent tolerance of error but from an awareness that we know only in part and that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God except by the Spirit of God. We proceed with our theological task, trusting that the Spirit will grant us wisdom to continue our journey with the whole people of God (p. 84); and
WHEREAS, in its 2003 and 2007 sessions, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church stated that the agendas of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and its subcommittee UM Action, were inconsistent with the mission, nature, and theology of the United Methodist Church by adopting resolutions stating the same;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirm the conclusions expressed in the 2003 and 2007 resolutions, and also concludes
that the activities of the Institute on Religion and Democracy are disruptive to the ministries of our denomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference commission the Conference Board of Church and Society to assemble study materials to be used by all Desert Southwest congregations on the Institute on Religion and Democracy, to be distributed no later than Spring 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference commission the Conference Board of Church and Society to create a letter to all United Methodists in our conference, expressing the Conference’s concerns about the Institute on Religion and Democracy, and asking them to prayerfully consider withdrawing any support they may give to the IRD and/or UM Action, and that this letter be distributed, along with this resolution and the accompanying supporting document, by each local congregation to its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference petition the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to include this resolution in the Book of Resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference petition the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to commission the General Board of Church and Society to create and/or distribute study materials on the Institute of Religion and Democracy for the use of our denomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and the accompanying supporting document be distributed to all other United Methodist Annual Conferences, the Council of Bishops, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Council on Ministries, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the National Council of Churches of Christ, and the World Council of Churches.

2011.15a: The Institute on Religion and Democracy
2011 Journal, pp. 74-77

Who is the IRD? The Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD) was founded in 1981, chiefly by two conservative Roman Catholics, Father Richard John Neuhaus and Michael Novak. According to a 2001 IRD document, Reforming America’s Churches Project, the IRD was founded “to combat the irresponsible political lobbying of mainline churches.” The IRD’s leadership body consists of 6 officers, a 20 member board of directors and a 19 member board of advisors. The denomination with the largest representation in IRD leadership is Roman Catholicism, with 6 board members and 4 on the advisory board. None of the officers and only 5 of the board members are United Methodist.

The IRD consists of a central organization and three sub groups, Episcopal Action, focused on the Episcopal Church in the U.S.; Presbyterian Action, focused on the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and UM Action, which is focused on the United Methodist Church. The IRD publishes a magazine, Faith and Freedom, and its three branches also publish newsletters, including UMAction Briefing, targeted at United Methodists. According to its figures, its circulation is 440,000. Many of the IRD’s staff also contribute pieces used by other media outlets. The IRD also operates a website, www.ird-renew.org, which offers editorial pieces and study resources, and has links to other conservative para-Methodist organizations, such as Good News, The Confessing Movement, The RENEW Network, Transforming Congregations, and Bristol House Publishing. The IRD is also “a chief organizer” and “the publicity and program arm” of the Association for Church Renewal, a “Coalition of conservative/evangelical groups in all the major mainline churches.”

The IRD’s interest in the three mainline denominations may be as much for political and social influence as it is for religious reform. The Reforming America’s Churches Project document notes
(Episcopal, Presbyterian, and United Methodist) memberships include remarkably high numbers of leaders in politics, business, and culture. For example, over one third of the members of the U.S. Senate belong to these three denominations. These denominations include a disproportionate number of higher income and educated Americans. They are affiliated with hundreds of colleges, universities, seminaries, academies, and charitable outreach centers...These denominations are still flagship churches that directly or indirectly influence millions of Americans.

**What does the IRD do?** According to their current purpose statement, the IRD “is an ecumenical alliance of U.S. Christians working to reform their churches' social witness, in accord with biblical and historic teachings, thereby contributing to the renewal of democratic society at home and abroad.” However, the focus of the IRD’s publications and postings is frequently criticism of mainline denominations’ leaders and/or policies. Their pieces are often written in a divisive, inflammatory style, and frequently take quotes out of context. The character or motives of those being criticized are sometimes explicitly or implicitly called into question, and at times readers are asked to take action against certain leaders or policies. This can result in intimidation of church leaders, distraction of leaders and resources from ministry, and make productive resolution to vital conflicts more difficult, if not impossible.

For example, in a response to the Council of Bishop’s 2005 document, “A Call To Repentance and Peace with Justice”, in a December 22nd, 2005 fundraising letter, UMAction Director Mark Tooley characterized the Council of Bishops as “Flower children and chronic demonstrators who never really grew up and faced the real, sinful world.” Another piece that appeared on the IRD website last month, “United Methodist Official Opposed to Old Glory?,” was a response to the General Board of Church and Society’s Rev. Clayton Childers. Childers expressed that the placement of American flags in church sanctuaries might imply support of policies that “run counter to...our Christian faith.” Tooley responded, “Religious left figures...oppose the United States flag because they are contemptuous of our country, its history, its institutions, its culture, and its leadership role in the world.” Headlines in the most recent issue of UMAction Briefing include “Pro-Homosexuality Activists Take Charge of General Conference Worship,” and “Episcopal Church Rejects Biblical Authority and Sexual Morality...”

**Where does the IRD’s support come from?** In a1999 fundraising letter, Mark Tooley stated “You might be curious where UMAction gets its funding...we rely entirely upon the generosity of United Methodists like you.” However, from 1981-1984, several hundred thousand dollars in IRD seed money came from the conservative Scaife-Mellon and Smith Richardson family foundations. Other conservative donors who have given substantial amounts to the IRD include the Bradley, Coors, and Olin family foundations. Since 1985, these donors have given the IRD grants worth more than $4,764,000. Conservative Episcopalians Howard and Roberta Ahmanson have given the IRD approximately $1,288,000 since 1991; the exact amount of their gifts, which may be substantially more, cannot be tracked through current tax laws. Roberta Ahmanson chairs the IRD’s Board of Directors. According to recent sources, 50% of the IRD’s current expenditures are targeted at the United Methodist Church.

Foundations which have supported the IRD have also supported prominent conservative organizations, including the John Birch Society, the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, the Federalist Society, and the Christian Reconstructionist Movement, which advocates fundamentalist Christian theocratic government. A number of IRD board members have direct ties to some of these organizations. A new film, Mine Your Own Business – A Documentary about the Dark Side of Environmentalism, is a joint venture of the Heritage Foundation and the IRD.

**How has the IRD responded to our Conference and its leaders?** In the year 2000, the IRD supported General Conference legislation that cut our Desert Southwest Conference’s representation at General Conferences in half. In Reforming the Churches Project, the IRD called 2000 “The most productive General Conference in 40 years,” in part because delegates Voted to reapportion the composition of future general conferences so that declining (and liberal) regions of the church such as
the northeast and west coast will receive fewer delegates. Growing (and more conservative) regions such as the southeast and overseas churches will receive more delegates. This will help insure that conservative trends...will continue at future general conferences. In a sample resolution to be used at this year’s annual conferences, “A Call for Justice and Equity”, the IRD calls for a reconfiguration of the Episcopal areas, which would reduce the number of Episcopal areas in the Western Jurisdiction, and increase the number in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and others.

A May 9th, 2003 Commentary on the IRD Website, which identified Bishop William Dew as one of its targets, characterized debate about the Iraq war as a “Struggle for the soul of America, which is being carried out by two dramatically opposed armies. One is made up of traditional Americans with Judeo Christian beliefs...the other army is made up of the secular left, who don’t like words like ‘cowboy,’ ‘evil,’ or ‘war.’ They worship at the altar of the United Nations...one of the strongest regiments in this godless army is America’s mainstream protestant leaders.” The author also stated, “The real spirit driving the peace-mongering protestant leaders is not pacifism at all. It is the hatred of President Bush and America itself.”

The Summer 2006 issue of UM Action Briefing featured a story titled “United Methodist Officials Lobby for Liberalized Immigration.” The piece named Bishop Minerva Carcaño, who was asked by the Council of Bishops to speak for them on immigration issues, as one of several United Methodist leaders who, in the unnamed author’s words, “jumped into recent political debates” concerning immigration. The author implied that Bishop Carcaño’s support for an immigrant rights activist was inappropriate, and at the end of the piece, advised readers to “Contact your bishop with your views about allowing Bishop Carcaño to speak for our church on controversial immigration politics.”

What are the goals of the IRD for our denomination? The current agenda of the IRD for the United Methodist Church, as reflected in the Move Forward in Mission statement of October 5, 2004, and the UM Action Reform Agenda of May 23rd, 2007, includes:

“The UMC shall abolish the General Council on Ministries, (the) Board of Church and Society, and (the) Commission on the Status and Role of Women.”

“The Social Principles shall be entirely rewritten...General boards and agencies shall not submit resolutions or petitions to General Conference.”

“Hold accountable the Bishops, Annual Conferences, UMC Agencies, and Women’s Division... Reform the seminaries...”

“We question the integrity of the ‘unity’ resolution which the 2004 General Conference hastily adopted... Irreconcilable differences on essentials are dividing the culture-conforming liberals – who want to re-write the Bible, the traditional Christian faith, and God’s plan for Man, Woman, and sex – from faithful United Methodists...we recommend allowing a gracious exit for those who cannot or will not accept the essential beliefs...”

The latest issue of the UMAction Briefing includes a piece titled “Time to Take Action at Your Annual Conference.” The unnamed author asks readers to bring IRD authored resolutions to local annual conferences, elect delegates to the next General conference that will be sympathetic to the IRD’s goals, and avoid “a takeover by the far-left activists that reject basic Christian beliefs...”

How should we respond to the IRD? Above all, the United Methodist Church is an inclusive family that welcomes all people, conservative, liberal, progressive, traditional, and all in between. Although we may disagree about the IRD and its activities, all United Methodists, and their perspectives, are an irreplaceable part of our denomination. The legitimate differences we have in our connectional church are a natural and healthy part of genuine diversity. It is a tragedy that often our rhetoric, and our society, have become so polarized in recent years. It is essential that our first priority, rather than seeking to exclude or marginalize one group or another, be to affirm our oneness in Christ, and seek solutions to our conflicts that have integrity with our Christian faith and our convictions. Even if
agreement in elusive, our faith tradition still invites us into a covenant of mutual respect, remembering the words of John Wesley, “In essentials unity, in all else, charity.”

Unfortunately, at times the IRD has had the effect of deconstructing our covenantal fabric. If the IRD achieves its stated goals, the social witness of our church, and the voices of those who disagree with the IRD, will not be “reformed”; they will essentially be eliminated from our connection. All United Methodists are welcome, and encouraged, to raise their voice for change, or for the preservation of tradition, from within our church. They are welcome to use, or to reform, the institutions our faith tradition has created. The IRD, however, seeks to dismantle large sections of our denomination from the outside – with leadership and resources that have no connection with United Methodism. The elimination of dissent is not part of our faith tradition. Rather, it is an importation of the worst features of divisive and destructive politics into the life of the church.

ask all United Methodists who have supported, or who have considered supporting, the IRD, UM Action, or their associated organizations, to be in prayer. We ask them to prayerfully consider if they should continue their support. And we ask them to prayerfully consider if the agenda of the IRD helps, or hinders, the mission of the United Methodist Church, as it seeks to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world.

Where can I get more information about the IRD? Two resources have examined this organization and its activities in detail. One is United Methodism @ RISK; A Wake-Up Call, by Leon Howell, published by Information Project for United Methodists in 2003. Copies can be ordered from Cokesbury. Another is a DVD presentation, Renewal or Ruin? The Institute on Religion and Democracy’s Attack on the United Methodist Church. The video, which appeared earlier this year, was created by United Methodist Minister Steven D. Martin. It features United Methodist Bishops Kenneth Carder and Beverly Shamana, and General Board of Church and Society Chair Jim Winkler. Copies can be ordered online at www.ird-info.com.

2011.15b: Petition Concerning The Institute on Religion and Democracy Recent Statements and Positions

2011 Journal, pp. 78-79

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society

During the last several years, the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), and in particular its President, Mark Tooley, have continued to issue statements on controversial issues in the United Methodist Church. Many of these have been featured in their publications Faith and Freedom, UM Action, and in other sources. Far from enhancing understanding and promoting sincere conversation, these comments continue to be divisive and inflammatory. Several examples are quoted below.

In “Biblical Open Borders?,” Mr. Tooley stated that when United Methodist Bishops, the National Council of Churches, and the National Association of Evangelicals advocated for immigration reform “The kind of demographic chaos the religious left advocates is suitable for multicultural fantasies.”

In “Faith in Open Borders,” which preceded the “March for America” immigration reform rally in Washington D.C. in March, 2010, Mr. Tooley wrote “Maybe the religious left is praying for a divine miracle to enact its dream of a borderless America,” and added “Irate activists will gather on the U.S. Capitol’s west lawn to insist that God opposes well regulated borders for the U.S.”

In “Religiously Marching for Immigration,” which followed the rally, and which, in part, was a response to a speech given at the rally by our own Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Mr. Tooley commented “Apparently, the Lord wants anyone to be able to walk across the U.S. border unimpeded,” and added “Many of these religious activists assert that all of U.S. citizenship’s benefits should automatically be available to everyone of the world’s 6 billion people.”
In “Bashing Arizona Immigration Law Supporters,” written following protests to Arizona law SB 1070, Mr. Tooley described the arguments against the law as “The slapdash pseudo-thinking of the Arizona Law’s seething religious critics.”

In “Orwellian Immigration speak, Methodist Style,” Mr. Tooley asserted that the efforts of the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) to soften the rhetoric on the issue of immigration had the effect of “Supporting complete open borders and all of the anarchy that would ensue,” and went on to characterize the GCORR and the United Methodist Board of Church and Society as “Morally empty church agencies.”

Mr. Tooley’s comments have not been confined to the issue of immigration. In a November 2009 article, “New Bush Library vs. the United Methodists,” he characterized those who opposed the location of the Bush Presidential Center on the United Methodist owned campus of Southern Methodist University as follows:

In truth, most of the Bush Library critics likely have greater contempt for Bush than for Saddam (Hussein), whose millions of voiceless victims never incited much sympathy among sufferers of Bush Derangement Syndrome. They implicitly would not have extracted Saddam from a spider hole, but instead would have left him grandly in his palaces plotting, thieving, starving, torturing and murdering for many more years. Later in the same article, after noting that the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library is located on the campus of United Methodist related Emory University, Tooley remarked “Evidently anti-Bush United Methodist clerics and other leftists prefer presidents who empower tyrants, not remove them.”

In “Religious Climate Rage,” Tooley criticized environmental concerns expressed at the Copenhagen Climate Summit, saying “Global Warming alarmism combines so many of the Religious Left’s favored fetishes, hopes and fears: hostility to free markets and economic growth; cravings for wealth redistribution; Western guilt; veneration for the earth at the expense of humanity; and aspirations for global governance.”

In “The Religious Left’s Warped ‘Just Peace,’” Tooley reacted to a World Council of Churches’ “Decade to Overcome Violence” conference, held recently in Jamaica. Tooley proclaimed, “This WCC “peace” convocation would prefer that victims of aggression suffer without rescue, and that billions of poor perpetually remain poor, rather than succumb to “neoliberal” free markets ideas of economic growth or dare to sully the environment.”

Our Desert Southwest Board of Church and Society affirms the right of Mr. Tooley, and of all people, to express their opinions on any issue. And we affirm that the United Methodist Church is a Christian community whose members hold many divergent perspectives. In our denomination, we not only should, but must, share our points of agreement and divergence, so that we can learn from each other, and grow together as the body of Christ.

Our concern with the IRD, and other similar organizations, is not that they present an alternative perspective to our own. It is that their confrontational rhetoric often results in polarization and mistrust, and often misrepresents the reality of the issues being addressed. We urge the adoption of resolution 21.15, so that the members of our congregations, and the people of our denomination, can gain a greater understanding of the IRD and its methods, and move forward to sincere, open, and respectful dialogue on the issues before us.

2011.17: Commitment to Kindness
Living an Ethic of Reciprocity
2011 Journal, pp. 80-81

WHEREAS, the “Ethic of Reciprocity,” better known as “The Golden Rule,” is embraced by, and transcends, every major religion in the world, and
WHEREAS, the “Golden Rule” requires that we use empathy and imagination to place ourselves in other’s shoes, and
WHEREAS, a cornerstone of the teachings of Jesus was to act toward others as we would have them act toward us, and
WHEREAS, we, as followers of The Christ should refuse, under any circumstance, to carry out any action that would cause another harm, and
WHEREAS, the legislature of the state of Arizona has already passed a resolution that this state be a “Golden Rule State.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert SW Conference of the United Methodist Church affirm this “ethic of reciprocity” by joining with other faiths and denominations around the world in affirming “The Charter For Compassion” as a helpful guideline for creating peace on earth and as an educational tool for congregations throughout our Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Charter for Compassion be sent to every church in our Conference where it may be used as a focus for children, youth and adult education, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference develop a plan to invite a diverse array of religious leaders to share with United Methodist congregations how compassion is lived in their own traditions, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert SW Conference, will, out of its experience of implementing this resolution, submit a similar resolution to the General Conference in 2012, requesting that the General Church affirm the Gold Rule as a foundational expression of Christ living.

Note
“The Charter for Compassion” is not simply a statement of principle. It is, above all, a summons to creative, practical and sustained actions to meet the political, moral, religious, social and cultural problems of our time.” (from website: www.charterforcompassion.org)

CHARTER FOR COMPASSION
A Call to bring the world together.

THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPASSION lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the entire of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

IT IS ALSO NECESSARY in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

WE THEREFORE CALL UPON ALL MEN AND WOMEN... to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion... to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate...to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions, and cultures—to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity—to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

WE URGENTLY NEED to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is
essential to human relationships and to fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

http://charterforcompassion.org/share/the-charter/

2012.10: Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice

WHEREAS the United States represents only 5% of the world’s population, criminal justice practices throughout the U.S. and jurisdictions within the Desert Southwest Annual Conference have made us responsible for 25% of the world’s incarcerated, and;

WHEREAS the Sentencing Project has shown the increase of over 800% of mass incarceration across the country and in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference has not been a result of increased crime rates or an increase in violent offenses, but largely due to changes in sentencing law as well as the “one size fits all” mandatory sentencing which allows little or no judicial discretion for individual consideration, and;

WHEREAS, according to the Detention Watch Network, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the private prison industry across the country and areas within the Desert Southwest Annual Conference is responsible for nearly 50% of individuals detained in immigration facilities and thereby profiting significantly from immigration detentions and in pursuit of profit engages in intensive lobbying of state and local governments to enact unrealistic and unjust sentencing requirements, and;

WHEREAS laws and policies have been enacted throughout jurisdictions within the Desert Southwest Conference to restrict people with felony convictions, even after paying their debt to society, from being able to vote, from being able to obtain employment, obtain access to welfare or unemployment benefits, obtain access to public housing, obtain student loans or access to any other programs that might help improve their education in an effort to become a productive member of the community; and;

WHEREAS these restrictions are barriers to a restorative, healthy and just re0entry into society, and;

WHEREAS the General Board of Church and Society has been building a national network of United Methodists dedicated to ending mass incarceration through conversation, discernment and deliberation with community and national partners and;

WHEREAS our Social Principals call us to practice Restorative Justice and “urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole” and

WHEREAS we as United Methodist across our connection are called to action by the General Board of Church and Society to address this human rights crisis and challenge the myths that some of us are not worthy of genuine care, compassion and concern.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our Bishop appoint a committee of 5 to 7 people to join in the efforts with other United Methodists and the General Board of Church and Society to end mass incarceration by becoming actively involved throughout our Annual Conference by educating members and becoming involved in ministries and opportunities for:

- Sentencing reform
- Ending prison privatization
- Developing just re-entry programs
- Increasing participation and opportunities for in prison ministry
WHEREAS the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church retained language in the *Book of Discipline* which continues to discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons; and

WHEREAS, No other marginalized group has been singled out in the *Book of Discipline* for discrimination or special exclusionary treatment. We believe this is in conflict with our traditional and historic emphasis on God’s grace being available to all. The discriminatory language is itself in conflict with the inclusive language in other parts of the *Book of Discipline*, including the Constitution of our denomination.

WHEREAS we believe that LGBT persons should be embraced as members of the body of Christ, as United Methodists in full standing, and as gifted children of God entitled equally to all of the ministries, ceremonies, and sacraments of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly"; and

WHEREAS, the nonviolent Civil Rights movement fought for justice and equality in civil and religious life in the United States with compassion and courage. Yet injustice continues to threaten us, in the United States and in the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of the full humanity, sacred worth and equal rights of LGBT people is crucial to the civil rights struggle of our time. LGDT and straight United Methodist laity and clergy are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, and

WHEREAS, the continuing denial of full access to all the rights and privileges of church membership in the United Methodist Church is causing deep spiritual harm to our LGBT brothers and sisters and is a threat to us all; and

WHEREAS, when asked which commandment in the law is the greatest, Jesus said, ‘‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself’ “ (Matthew 22:37-39); and

WHEREAS, in his sermons “The New Birth” and “The Catholic Spirit,” John Wesley taught that as long as we hold in common the essential elements of our faith, and as long as we unite in love, meaning that we love one another, that we commend each other to God in prayer, that we provoke each other to love and to good works, that we love each other not only in word but in deed and in truth, then our hearts are right and we should walk together hand in hand. Wesley further taught that differences of opinion ought not to tear this union of hearts asunder; and

WHEREAS, our membership vows call us “to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves”; and

WHEREAS, the first of Wesley’s General Rules is to Do No Harm, and

WHEREAS, the United Methodists Church claims to be a church of open hearts, open minds and open doors and to be a church that practices radical hospitality,

WHEREAS the Desert Southwest Conference, being part of the Western Jurisdiction has affirmed the *We Will Not Be Silent* statement adopted by the United Methodist Western Jurisdictional Conference in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference, took the bold and courageous stand in 2009, and voted as an Annual Conference to become a Welcoming and Reconciling Conference; therefor let it be RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference reaffirms its commitment to and work for the full civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all persons including LGBT persons, and declares its
opposition to continued restrictions of church law on the participation of LGBT persons in The United Methodist Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we acknowledge when following the Book of Discipline it requires us to do harm and injustice be discriminating against, diminishing, or demeaning our LGBT brothers and sisters, and that we are placed in an impossible situation as to be guided by our Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience or by the Book of Discipline; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church work together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people, regardless of their economic status, race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, or immigration status.

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**2013.01: Open Bathrooms Resolution**

2013 Journal, vol. 2, p. 60

Submitted by The Welcoming and Reconciling Committee

WHEREAS, an Arizona Senator, in backlash against Phoenix’s new anti-discrimination law, introduced a bill SB 1432, that would charge and jail transgender individuals for Disorderly Conduct, who use public restrooms not designated for their birth gender, has made it out of the House Appropriations committee stating that:

B. A PERSON COMMITS DISORDERLY CONDUCT IF THE PERSON INTENTIONALLY ENTERS A PUBLIC RESTROOM, BATHROOM, SHOWER, BATH, DRESSING ROOM OR LOCKER ROOM AND A SIGN INDICATED THAT THE ROOM IS FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF PERSONS OF ONE SEX AND THE PERSON IS NOT LEGALLY CLASSIFIED ON THE PERSON’S BIRTH CERTIFICATE AS A MEMBER OF THAT SEX.

WHEREAS, SB 1432, puts the transgendered community in harm in the state of Arizona, and

WHEREAS, the transgendered community in general faces discrimination from civil and religious institutions, and

WHEREAS, the recognition of the full humanity, sacred worth, and equal rights of LGBT people is crucial to the civil rights struggle of our time. LGBT and straight United Methodist laity and clergy are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, and

WHEREAS, the continuing denial of full access to all the rights and privileges is causing deep spiritual harm to our LGBT brothers and sisters and is a threat to us all; and

WHEREAS, our membership vows call is “to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves”; and

WHEREAS, the first of Wesley’s General Rules is Do No Harm, and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church claims to be a church of open hearts, open minds and open doors and to be a church that practices radical hospitality, and

WHEREAS, at last years Annual Conference we resolved that the Desert Southwest Conference reaffirmed its commitment to and work for the full civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all persons including LGBT persons and that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church work together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people, regardless of their economic status, race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, or immigration status, therefore let it be

RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference make the public statement that our Churches and facilities (building, gathering spaces and bathrooms) are safe places for all regardless of gender identity and that transgender people may use the bathroom of their choosing in our churches and affiliated buildings.
WHEREAS, the recent SCOTUS ruling makes Marriage Equality legal in California, and,
WHEREAS, Our Annual Conference consists of part of California, and
WHEREAS, the continuing denial of full access to all the rights and privileges in the United Methodist Church is causing deep spiritual harm to our LGBT brothers and sisters and is a threat to us all; and
WHEREAS, our membership vows call us “to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves”; and
WHEREAS, we are called to be obedient to the whole of church law which calls the church to be in ministry with all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) persons.
WHEREAS, the opening section of The Book of Discipline. Which reminds us of serious flaws and shortcomings manifest in the larger history of Methodism. Shortcomings specifically listed include our previous accommodation of racial segregation by establishing a race-based Central Jurisdiction, and our extended denial of ordination rights and prominent leadership role for women, and
WHEREAS, the “Social Principals“ of The United Methodist Church (Part IV) strongly endorses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with emphasis on respect for the inherent dignity of all persons. Explicitly cited are the full rights of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities; and the rights of children, young people, the aging, women, men, immigrants, and persons with disabilities. The list concludes by declaring the full human rights of all persons without regard to their sexual orientations, a reference that suggests rational and experiential grounds for endorsing the rights of same-sex couples to marry, and
WHEREAS It is in the context of these traditions that we must address current shortcomings in United Methodist policy, in particular, forty-one years of prejudicial language portraying the life practices of gay and lesbian persons as “incompatible with Christian teaching,” a standard that has excluded them from ordination, from marriage, and in some cases even from church membership (Judicial Council Ruling 1032). These exclusionary principles are prominent components of the “chargeable offenses“ assigned to the “Judicial Administration“ (chapter 7, par. 2702). Such unjust rules, combined with the prosecution of clergy who refused to uphold them, are themselves incompatible with United Methodist visions of inclusiveness, which call of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.”
WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference is part of the Larger Western Jurisdiction, which adopted the “Statement of Gospel Obedience” that states the denomination is in error in its stance on the practice of homosexuality and urged United Methodists to operate as if that position does not exist.
WHEREAS, at last year’s Annual Conference we resolved that the Desert Southwest Conference reaffirmed its commitment to and work for the full civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all persons including LGBTQ persons and that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church work together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people, regardless of their economic status, race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, or immigration status, therefore let it be
RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference make a public statement supporting and upholding Marriage Equality. Let it further be
RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will support our clergy who take the bold and faithful stand to minister to all equally and include all in the life of the church, which includes but is not limited to,
conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies where it is civilly legal to do so. Let it further be

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, will support (spiritually, emotionally, and prayerfully) clergy who are brought up on charges for conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.

Bishop’s Ruling: The Resolution invites the members of the annual conference to participate in the ministry of the annual conference, and makes a case that this participation will strengthen the ministry of the annual conference. The Resolution upholds the right of an annual conference to make public statements that announce its support of, or opposition to, a proposition or idea and thereby publicly declare a point of view; and the Resolution calls upon each person in covenant with one another as disciples of Jesus Christ, to offer support through spiritual care, emotional nurture, and prayer, as that person undergoes the process of facing formal complaints or changes in the church’s response to formal complaints for such actions. The Resolution does not legally negate, ignore, or violate the Discipline and is in concert with the provisions of Judicial Council Decision 1220. The Resolution is not out of order.

2014.01: Resolution Concerning Abolishing the Death Penalty

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Book of Discipline states, “We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings... We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable.” (The Book of Discipline 2012, ¶ 164G); and

WHEREAS, the denomination has stated in The Book of Discipline: “When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person’s life ends. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance. This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.” (The Book of Discipline 2012, ¶ 164 G); and

WHEREAS, Amnesty International states that the death penalty is riddled with human error and bias, noting that 70% of cases are overturned due to serious legal error, and since 1973, more than 135 people have been exonerated on evidence of their innocence, including 8 exonerations in Arizona, 3 exonerations in California and 1 exoneration in Nevada; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we will support the work of the members of the Annual Conference who are working toward abolishing the death penalty in the states of Arizona, California and Nevada, and lobby for the redefinition of life to actually mean life in prison.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local churches are encouraged to sponsor events for civil dialogue on the issue of the death penalty and share with the Conference Board of Church and Society the impact such events had on the people who attended.

2014.02: Concerning Desert Southwest Conference Response to Human Trafficking

Submitted by the Board of Church and Society of the Desert Southwest Conference
WHEREAS, we read in Matthew 25:40 just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me; and
WHEREAS, “Human trafficking, as defined by the U.S. Department of State, is the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for labor, services, or commercial sex acts by means of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of exploitation, involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery, or any commercial sex act involving a minor. Trafficking is modern-day slavery that victimizes vulnerable populations including women, children and impoverished individuals” and is contrary to Christian faith practice; and
WHEREAS, we recognize that human trafficking is a huge problem in the United States. Close to 300,000 children are exploited each year in the commercial sex industry. The average age that children are brought into this life is between 12 and 14. 83% of the victims found in the United States are United States citizens. (Department of Justice) The number of children and adults currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 12.3 million globally. (Polaris Project) Globally, labor trafficking is the most severe and extreme, with 80% of trafficking occurring for labor. We recognize that while statistics are difficult to be accurate as this is a crime that occurs underground and in the shadows, we as a people of faith will not tolerate or welcome such actions;
WHEREAS, we recognize that within the bounds of our Conference human trafficking occurs both in labor and sex trafficking among minors and adults; therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED the Desert Southwest Conference will take a public stand against human trafficking; and
BE IT RESOLVED, a Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society subgroup on Human Trafficking will guide the work of providing educational resources to local churches in order to facilitate understanding of human trafficking and to lead to action; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the subgroup in collaboration with partner organizations will work with the hotels and venues to raise awareness of the issue with their employees; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this subgroup will engage in ecumenical and interfaith partnerships in order to continue a vigilant watch regarding legislation around human trafficking in the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada, as well as at the federal level, and speak as necessary with holy boldness to this issue.

2014.03: Resolution to Agree to Disagree in Love, Compassion and Grace Concerning the Matter of Homosexuality

2014 Journal, vol. 2, pp. 75-76

For as long as the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church has been in existence (1984) and even before there has been a great divide between church members regarding homosexuality.
WHEREAS, beliefs about homosexuality continue to divide our society and the church. All in The United Methodist Church affirm that homosexual persons are people of sacred worth and all are welcome in our churches, but we disagree as a people regarding whether homosexual practices are contrary to the will of God.
WHEREAS, the Bible is our primary source for discerning God’s will with the help of the thoughtful reflections of Christians throughout the centuries and assisted by our understanding of history, culture and science, and
WHEREAS, because of this broad biblical and theological diversity within The United Methodist Church, we continue to experience a world-wide rift regarding this critical and divisive issue, with some professing that homosexuality is contrary to biblical teaching and others believing that historical perspectives and interpretations change as cultures embrace new understandings of science, genetics and human behavior, and
WHEREAS, United Methodists will continue to struggle with this issue in the years ahead as a growing number of young adults identify today with what is the minority view of General Conference. The majority view of the General Conference, and thus the official position of the church, continues to hold out that same-sex intimacy is not God’s will. We recognize, however, that many faithful United Methodists disagree with this view.

WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline is not of one mind on this issue and is often found to be contradictory in its wording and voice;

WHEREAS, it is likely that this issue will continue to be a source of conflict within the church, we have a choice: We can divide, or we can commit to disagree with compassion, grace, and love, while continuing to seek to understand the concerns of the other. Given these options, schism or respectful co-existence, we choose the latter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church commit to agree to disagree with respect and love.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit to love all persons and above all, we pledge to seek God’s will. We will continue to be in serious and meaningful dialogue prayerfully leading us to holy conversation with one another and with our sovereign God.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that regarding homosexuality, as with so many other issues, The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the attitude of John Wesley who once said, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.”

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to truly agree to disagree means each person has the same right and freedom to follow their conscience as they live their faith as a disciple of Jesus the Christ.

2014.04: Resolution to Stop Clergy Trials for Conducting Same Sex Unions

2014 Journal, vol. 2, pp. 77-78
Adopted as amended
Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society, Welcoming & Reconciling Subgroup

WHEREAS, according to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, and according to The Book of Discipline, “We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. (The Book of Discipline ¶ 161.F), and “All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status or sexual orientation are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured,” (The Book of Discipline ¶161.F), and “We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.” (The Book of Discipline ¶161.F); complaints have been written and trials held against ordained clergy for ministering to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) brothers and sisters in Christ by conducting union/marriage ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, according to The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” (The Book of Discipline ¶ 161.F) and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Church doctrine calls for inclusiveness in which “all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the Church, the community and the world”; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of Bishops acknowledged in their report after the November 10-13, 2013 Council meeting, as quoted in United Methodist News Connections that, “neither they nor other members of the church they lead are of one mind regarding ministering with gays and lesbians” (Council of Bishops Requests Complaint Against Talbert, United Methodist News Connections, United Methodist News Service, November 15, 2013); and

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WHEREAS, Bishops have publically and privately opposed recommendations for such charges, and spoken out against trials and penalties for ministers officiating at these union and marriages; and

WHEREAS, ordained clergy who are seeking to navigate the inconsistencies within United Methodist Church law face severe penalties for ministering fully to the LGBT children of God; and

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us God’s covenant extends to all persons, as made by the living Christ whose command was to love God and neighbor, teaching radical inclusion, and through our Church mandate to gather all persons of faith into the community of the Body of Christ (Mark 12:30-31, Galatians 3:28, and Matthew 28:19); and

WHEREAS, Judicial proceedings should seek a just resolution, which is defined in The Book of Discipline (¶ 2701 5):

“A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability by making things right in so far as possible and bringing healing to all the parties. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural, racial, ethnic, age and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of their understanding of fairness, justice, and restoration...” and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline (¶2707) states: “Church trials are to be regarded as an expedient of last resort. Only after every reasonable effort has been made to correct any wrong...”; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we implore the Bishops of The United Methodist Church to diligently work to find just alternatives to trials of United Methodist Church clergy for conducting same-sex unions and marriages.

2014.05: Resolution to Designate the Sunday Prior to November 20th as Transgender Remembrance Day

2014 Journal, vol. 2, p. 79

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society, Welcoming & Reconciling Subgroup

WHEREAS, paragraph 162 of The Book of Discipline states:

“We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work towards societies in which each person’s value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic right of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievance, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability status, economic conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. 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;” and,

WHEREAS, transgender people are a minority who are victims of verbal and physical abuse which have resulted in cases of murder (1,200 transgender people have been reported killed over the last five years) and suicide (41% of transgender people living in the United States have attempted suicide) out of proportion to their numbers due to ignorance, prejudice, and lack of understanding or education among the majority; and

WHEREAS, at Annual Conference 2013, a resolution was passed stating that the Desert Southwest Conference and the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference make the public statement that our churches and facilities (buildings, gathering spaces and bathrooms) are safe places for all people regardless of gender identity...”; and

WHEREAS, November 20th is recognized internationally as Transgender Day of Remembrance;

Therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, that the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference observe annually, for the remainder of this quadrennium, the Sunday prior to November 20th, or another Sunday in November to be Transgender Remembrance Sunday, and mark the occasion within the Desert Southwest Conference and the local church, to memorialize those who have died and to reaffirm our resolve to make this Conference a safe place for all regardless of gender identity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that following this quadrennium, the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference designate one Sunday per year as a day of remembrance for victims of violence, with specific identification of a victimized group annually.

2015.03: Economic Inequality
Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS the gospels call disciples of Christ in all generations to have compassion and mercy on, and practice advocacy for, the disadvantaged and/or vulnerable (Matthew 5:42, 25:31-46, Mark 10:21, Luke 4:18-19, 6:20, and others);
WHEREAS John Wesley and the founders of the Methodist movement laid the foundations for our denomination and initiated spiritual awakenings through ministry for and with the vulnerable of their times (Fredrick A Norwood, The Story of American Methodism, Nashville: Abingdon Press; 1974, pp. 23-60);
WHEREAS the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, as contained in the Book of Discipline, clearly condemn economic disparity which results in the profit of some, at the expense of the degradation of and the lessening of the dignity and quality of life for others (Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012, Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, ¶ 163, pp. 128, 130, 133);
WHEREAS national and global disparity between the wealthiest individuals and the ever-growing number of those in poverty is rapidly increasing, to the extent that at the beginning of 2014, the wealthiest 85 individuals owned as much as the poorest half of the world’s population (Even It Up, Oxfam International, 2014, p. 8); and
WHEREAS economic inequality is a major contributing factor, if not the greatest single element, in creating disparity, injustice and unresponsiveness in education, employment, environmental policy, health care, housing, immigration, retiree security, and has also created tremendous imbalances in the financial industry, the electoral process, and in the expression of political and social opinion (Thomas Piketty; Capital, pp. 1-35; Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, The Spirit Level, pp. 15-30);

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) shall

1. affirm that the biblical and Wesleyan foundations of our denomination, and our Social Principles, call the conferences and congregations of the United Methodist Church to recognize the destructive power of economic inequality on human potential, relationships, and our relationship with God, to advocate for the vulnerable and disadvantaged, and to work for greater equality;
2. request the congregations of our Conference to use study materials produced by the Conference Board of Church and Society, for congregation-wide study and reflection on the nature, extent, and effects of economic inequality prior to the 2016 Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference;
3. request the Conference Sessions Committee to use the results of the studies described in Resolved Point #2 for discussion at the 2016 Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.
Conference, to the end of creating strategies for the congregations of the DSC and the communities they serve to address economic inequality; and

4. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to direct all conferences of the United Methodist Church to use materials produced by the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) to assess the nature, extent, and effects of economic inequality, and create strategies to address it, in each conference; direct all conferences to return the information gained from their studies to the GBCS by July 1”1 2018; and direct the GBCS to make recommendations for addressing economic inequality at the 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

2015.04: Inclusivity

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS the overarching message of the scriptures of the Judeo-Christian tradition is God’s love for all people, and God’s desire that all people would come to have a full relationship with God (Genesis 1:26-31, John 3:16, others);

WHEREAS from its earliest Wesleyan roots, the United Methodist Church has sought to welcome and be in ministry with all people (Kenneth L. Carder, Who Are We? Doctrine, Ministry, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church, Revised Leader’s Guide (Cokesbury, 2001), p. 46);

WHEREAS In the history of our denomination, during the times of slavery, the civil rights movement and others, specific conferences or the Denomination as a whole maintained traditional policies and positions that later proved regrettable, in which groups of people were excluded, marginalized, or denied basic human rights;

WHEREAS many persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities have a profound Christian faith. Yet, many are rejected or marginalized by their faith communities, including the congregations and denominational structure of the United Methodist Church, because of exclusionary policies; and

WHEREAS many United Methodist Christians have gifts and graces for ministry, yet are unable to receive ordination in the United Methodist Church solely because of committed relationships with other persons, which they are unwilling to disavow or avoid acknowledging publicly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) shall

1. affirm that the foundations of the Judea-Christian and Wesleyan traditions encourage God’s people to welcome all people into the full life and ministry of the Church, and that the history of our faith teaches that God’s grace is shown when the excluded or marginalized are welcomed and accepted fully into the Body of Christ;

2. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to change the Book of Discipline, ¶ 161, Section F, Human Sexuality, to read:

... Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage ... Homosexual All persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in the struggle for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends based on the sexual orientation and/or gender identity. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons;
3. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to change the Book of Discipline, ¶ 304, Qualifications for Ordination, Part 3, to read:

- 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 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.

4. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to remove from the Book of Discipline ¶ 341, Unauthorized Conduct, Part 6:

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

5. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to remove from the Book of Discipline ¶ 806, Fiscal Responsibilities, Part 9 to read:

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 acceptance of homosexuality or violence the express commitment of the United Methodist Church “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (Par. 161F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. It shall not limit the church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.

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**2015.05: Native American Sunday Observance and Support**


Submitted by the Task Group for the Act of Repentance

WHEREAS there are 22 Native American tribes in Arizona and 18 Native American tribes in Nevada;

WHEREAS we recognize the role of our denomination in the painful history of Native Americans;

WHEREAS we realize that many have little knowledge of Native history or the struggles currently faced by Native people and we continue to mistake culturally different for being culturally inferior and by so doing discount native world views, languages and practices as unimportant at best and un-Christian at worst;

WHEREAS the United Methodist Book of Resolutions states that every conference, and every local congregation of The United Methodist Church develop and nurture relationships with the indigenous persons of the place where that conference resides through a process of deep listening and learning, and;

WHEREAS the Council of Bishops has called on each Conference within the denomination to implement Acts of Repentance to Indigenous Peoples in this quadrennial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in the Desert Southwest Conference;

1. Native American Sunday be observed in every congregation in the Desert Southwest Conference by engaging in meaningful conversations, discussions and worship that help our people to better comprehend the significance of Native American culture in our lives; and

2. as a part of this observance every congregation in the Desert Southwest Conference generously supports the special offering on Native American Sunday.

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**2015.06: Petroleum and Natural Gas Investments**

2015 Journal, vol. 2, pp. 51-52

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society
WHEREAS our scriptures record that God created the world to sustain us and the other creatures that inhabit it, and entrusted it to our care (Genesis 1:29-31);

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel dependence for the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement (2012 Book of Resolutions, #1001);

WHEREAS the investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church exclude investing in companies that violate church values (2012 Book of Resolutions, #4071);

WHEREAS the Social Principles state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions” (Book of Discipline, ¶ 160, part D), and the extraction and burning of petroleum and natural gas exacerbates climate change (“Causes of Climate Change,” United States Environmental Protection Agency);

WHEREAS United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, massive wildfires, and other extreme weather events, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change (Justin Gillis, “U.N. Panel Issues its Starkest Warning Yet on Climate Change,” The New York Times, November 2, 2014) and continued investment in petroleum and natural gas companies undermines The United Methodist Church’s ministries to the most vulnerable among us—including those who are hungry, sick and/or living in poverty, and signals a grave disregard for the lives of young people; and

WHEREAS the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHBJ manages more than $21 billion in assets on behalf of United Methodist clergy, staff, agencies, churches, and other institutions (Heather Hahn, “Changes Ahead for Pension Board Investments,” United Methodist News, January 22, 2015) including significant holdings in petroleum and natural gas companies (“Investment Holdings,” December 31, 2014), and shareholder advocacy cannot change petroleum and natural gas companies’ core business model, which is to produce petroleum and natural gas; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC):

1. affirm the foundations of scripture, which call us to be good stewards of our environment;
2. affirm the positions and policies of our denomination regarding the risks of fossil fuel dependency, the need for denominational investment policies consistent with our social convictions, and the risks of climate change, as stated in The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions;
3. petition the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to require that the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church avoid investing in any company or entity which derives 10% or more of its revenue from the production of petroleum or natural gas;
4. petition the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to amend the Book of Discipline ¶ 717 as follows:

It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the production of petroleum, coal, natural gas, nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.
5. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to amend the Book of Resolutions #4071, Socially Responsible Investing Strategies, 1. Portfolio screening, as follows:

**Socially Responsible Investing Strategies**

The Church shall pursue its investment policy goals through widely practiced socially responsible investing tools such as:

1. Portfolio screening

   Based on long-standing United Methodist values, the Church does not invest in companies deriving significant revenue (usually 10 percent or more) from:
   - alcoholic beverages
   - tobacco products;
   - gambling equipment or enterprises;
   - pornography;
   - operating or managing prison facilities;
   - the production of petroleum, coal, or natural gas;
   - antipersonnel weapons, armaments, ammunition, or weapons-related systems provided for commercial and private markets and nuclear weapons.

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**2015.07: Resolution Endorsing Science and Evolution**

*2015.07: Resolution Endorsing Science and Evolution*

*2015 Journal, vol. 2, p. 53*

WHEREAS the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed three “evolution-friendly” petitions, recognizing that science and theology are compatible rather than contradictory;

WHEREAS many traditions have learned that repressing science is often counterproductive to good religion (where new findings about the universe can lead to new revelations of the mysteries of the Divine);

WHEREAS United Methodism has historically sidestepped honest dialogue about the interface between religion and science (especially evolution), leaving some United Methodists unclear about the church’s stance on scientific issues;

WHEREAS many young people have left the church because they believe the church is out of touch with reality; and

WHEREAS Creationists have introduced resolutions to remove the word evolution from the Book of Discipline, to retract the United Methodist endorsement of The Clergy Letter Project and Evolution Weekend, and to delete the Church’s clear opposition to creationism in science classrooms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC)


2. publicly joins the General Church in endorsing The Clergy Letter Project¹ (www.theclergyletterproject.org);

3. urges local churches to observe Evolution Weekend;² and

4. actively opposes “the introduction of any faith-based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science curriculum of our public schools.”³

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¹ Resolution 11, “God’s Creation and the Church” in the 2008 Book of Resolutions.

² Resolution 11, “God’s Creation and the Church” in the 2008 Book of Resolutions.

2016.01: Resolution for Full Inclusivity as a Path to the Growth and Vitality of the Church

2016 Journal, p. 131

In an effort to live into our identity as a Reconciling Conference and in support of our Bishop’s commitment to lead our Conference to be open to all of God’s children, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference reaffirms our commitment to a fully inclusive church.

Acknowledging that our denomination’s Discipline discriminates against LGBTQ persons and is a barrier to not only LGBTQ persons, but to whole generations of young people and others for whom these prohibitions are untenable, we recognize that anything other than full inclusivity is betrayal of our Biblical call to love all and a clear obstacle to the growth and vitality of our church.

Affirming Bishop Hoshibata’s witness that this is an important time in the life of our denomination and his challenge that God is asking us to do something better than what we’ve been doing, we pledge as a Conference to not miss this opportunity to express God’s love, by “looking at the world with different lenses and with a pastoral heart, instead of a disciplinary book.”

Therefore, we pledge to go to that courageous place, being obedient not to a Discipline of words, but to our common discipline of love and grace. We will respond to Jesus’ call in our lives that compels us “to be bigger than we are and to lead our denomination into a future that welcomes all.”

Affirming our present diversity, we resolve to work toward and create a clear path to full inclusivity by developing and funding programs of cultural competency, anti-racism, anti-ageism, anti-sexism, anti-oppression and anti-homophobia/trans-phobia training at the conference and district levels, as well as for advocacy and implementation of full inclusion of all God’s children regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

To that end, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference also resolves to practice non-discrimination towards all LGBTQ persons, employees, and clergy—including not participating in or conducting judicial procedures related to the Discipline’s prohibitions against LGBTQ persons.

2017.01: Resolution to Measure the Effectiveness of the Resolution for Full Inclusivity as a Path to the Growth and Vitality of the Church as Presented and Passed June 18, 2016 at the Desert Southwest Annual Conference

2017 Journal, pp. 126-127

WHEREAS, over the past many years the topic of human sexuality and the teaching of incompatibility with Christian teaching has been debated over and over. In recent years, the Book of Discipline has become more rigid in the language regarding the LGBTQ community.

WHEREAS, it has been noted that the Book of Discipline is just a book of rules and that we should look at this situation with a new set of lenses that does not take a legal view of the situation. A resolution passed June 18, 2016, was entitled Full Inclusivity as a path to growth and Vitality of the Church.

WHEREAS, not everyone in the Desert Southwest Conference agrees with ignoring the Book of Discipline. As the Book of Discipline is the way our denomination is governed, many members felt
the process to change the language through General Conference action needs to be followed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference determines to measure the effectiveness of this strategy for growth by assessing the change in worship attendance between December 31, 2015 (before the resolution was passed) and December 31, 2017. In preparation for the 2018 Annual Conference session, the conference statistician shall prepare a report specifically focusing on the growth (or lack thereof) in worship attendance pursuant to the resolution, the “How to Reach New People” program, and other variables. If these strategies for growth are not proving effective, the 2018 Annual Conference session may rescind the resolution passed June 18, 2016.

2017.02: Resolution to Fix Dates of General and Jurisdictional Conference Elections
2017 Journal, p. 127

WHEREAS the Book of Discipline now allows for annual conferences to decide when they elect their delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences if elections are “held not more than two annual conference sessions before the calendar year preceding the session of the General Conference” (The Book of Discipline, 2016, ¶502.3);
WHEREAS our Desert Southwest Conference can provide more timely, more strategic and stronger Jurisdictional leadership by being elected at the same time or earlier than other conferences in the Western Jurisdiction;
WHEREAS fixing the dates of all upcoming elections in our rules creates clarity and prevents having to vote separately to determine every election date; and
WHEREAS some of the references in our rules should be updated to reflect changes in the 2012 and 2016 Book of Discipline; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference amend and add to its rules as follows:

II. Conference Procedures, J. Election of Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences

1. The election shall be held in accordance with The Book of Discipline, 2016, ¶¶13.2, 34, 35, and 36, and 502.3.

2. Elections for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences will be at the regular Annual Conference session held two calendar years prior to a regularly scheduled session of General Conference.

(Subsequent rules should be renumbered accordingly.)

2017.03: Resolution to Clarify Head Delegate Process
2017 Journal, pp. 127-128

WHEREAS the delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences is required to have a Head Delegate that has significant responsibilities, which includes providing leadership for the delegation, representing the delegation at organizing meetings, and signing all alternates in and out of plenary sessions;
WHEREAS the Head Delegate of the Desert Southwest Conference delegation has been determined in the past by an orally communicated habit of alternating between the first elected lay and clergy delegates to General Conference;
WHEREAS Conferences have the authority to determine policies and practices for determining their own Head Delegates; and
WHEREAS the delegation is in a more strategic position to determine who can most effectively lead itself rather than an arbitrary alternating of roles; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference add to its Conference Rules, Policies, and Guidelines as follows:

II. Conference Procedures, J. Election of Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences

10. The delegation’s Head Delegate will be chosen between the first elected lay and clergy delegates by a vote of the Jurisdictional delegation (i.e., all delegates elected by the Desert Southwest Conference to both General and Jurisdictional Conference). In the case of a tie vote, the Head Delegate position will alternate between the first elected lay and clergy delegates based on the most previous General Conference’s Head Delegate.

(If the Rule Change to fix the dates of General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates is approved, this rule should be renumbered as 11.)

2017.04: Resolution Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice Through Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions

Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) are constitutionally protected forms of free speech and protest that have often been used by people of conscience to effect positive social and political change;

WHEREAS a wave of anti-BDS legislation that has been proposed in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures and public institutions across the United States threatens to penalize the use of these time-honored nonviolent justice-seeking actions;

WHEREAS United Methodists and other religious communities have long used the nonviolent methods of boycotts, divestment and sanctions to stand in solidarity with oppressed people and to work for justice, and such advocacy measures by the United Methodist Church have proven to be useful tools in helping to bring about a wide range of constructive social change, including the strengthening of labor rights for farm workers in the United States and ending of apartheid in South Africa;

WHEREAS, in 2005, after studying the success of such efforts, a broad coalition of Palestinian civil society issued a call for a global movement of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to advance the Palestinians’ long-denied rights to self-determination, freedom, justice, and equality;

WHEREAS, in 2009, Palestinian Christians echoed the call for boycott and divestment in their landmark document, “Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth,” ~ an ecumenical confession of faith and urgent call to action often compared to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and other Christian manifestos written in times of crisis ~ that has been signed by thousands of Palestinian Christians and endorsed by the 13 Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, in recent years, more than a dozen United Methodist Annual Conferences have called for their own conference and/or the denomination to divest from companies that support and profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land;

WHEREAS, in 2012, the United Methodist General Conference approved the resolution “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land,” (The United Methodist Book of Resolution, 2016, #6111) which calls on “all nations to prohibit ... the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land,” i.e. calls for an international boycott of the Israeli settlements;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church announced that five Israeli banks would be excluded from their investment portfolios, explicitly because of those banks’ involvement in settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian territories; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes any state or federal legislation that seeks to restrict the right to address injustice through boycotts, divestment
and sanctions and joins the Rabbinical Council of Jewish Voice for Peace in calling on our elected officials “to resist efforts to stifle the movement toward justice for Palestinians through the current wave of ‘anti-BDS’ legislation;” and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conference Secretary write a letter to the President of the United States and to the Governors Doug Ducey, Brian Sandoval, and Jerry Brown the congressional representatives and the members of the legislatures of Arizona, Nevada, and California informing those elected officials of this resolution and attaching the full text of the resolution, said letter to include the approximate number of congregations and church members within the Desert Southwest Conference and/or within the respective states of the recipients.

2017.05: Resolution on Holy Land Travel

2017 Journal, pp. 129-130
Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS, indigenous Palestinian Christians have asked their fellow Christians around the world to meet with them when visiting the Holy Land, stating: “We intend to fulfill our role to make known to you the truth of our reality, receiving you as pilgrims coming to us to pray, carrying a message of peace, love and reconciliation. You will know the facts and the people of this land, Palestinians and Israelis alike.” (Kairos Palestine Document: http://kairosparis.ps/index.php/about-us/kairos-palestine-document); and

WHEREAS, United Methodist mission personnel past and present have for many years invited United Methodists to “come and see” what they have seen during their time in the Holy Land (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKb8SYv8BKQ) and likewise have asked that those planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine both “consult with the United Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christian congregations” and “visit United Methodist supported mission sites;” (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6031); and,

WHEREAS, the conflict in the Holy Land has been raised repeatedly in General Conference resolutions, and understanding of the issue is critical to informed discussion among United Methodist laity and clergy (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6111), now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, clergy and laity of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church who are planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine are strongly urged to consult with the Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) in Jerusalem (admin@methodist-jer.org and encounter@methodist-jer.org) to seek opportunities to meet with United Methodist missionaries living and working in the region, visit United Methodist supported mission sites, worship with indigenous Christian congregations and include in their tours at least one overnight stay in Bethlehem in accordance with the 2016 Resolution #6031; and be it further

RESOLVED, anyone from this annual conference intending to visit the Holy Land, are urged to read the Kairos Palestine Document: “A Moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope and love,” before they travel and to study the United Methodist Book of Resolutions with particular attention to Resolution #6111 and other resolutions dealing with Palestine, settlements in the West Bank, boycotting settlement products, interfaith relations, indigenous peoples, anti-Semitism, racism and human rights.

2018.01: DisAbility Awareness Sunday With Offering

2018 Journal, p. 89
Submitted by Conference DisAbility Ministries Committee
WHEREAS Christ heard the cries of people with disabilities and, disregarding the objections of others, stopped to ask what he could do for them and provided what they needed, including restoration to society; and

WHEREAS all people are given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit and yet the gifts of people with disabilities are often overlooked by church members who do not have disabilities; and

WHEREAS the 2016 Book of Discipline states that “we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus’ ministry to all persons” and further states that... “Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world...” (¶140); and

WHEREAS the 2016 Book of Discipline requires every congregation to observe Disability Awareness Sunday and allows for the Annual Conference to set the date and direct that a special offering be taken to support accessibility in churches (¶265.4); and

WHEREAS congregations often have unaddressed accessibility and inclusive program needs; and

WHEREAS the DisAbility Ministries Committee began providing annual accessibility/inclusive program grants for churches in 2016 out of the small apportioned budget, supplementing with designated funds which are now greatly depleted; and

WHEREAS the DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church, a denomination-wide entity that also provides accessibility/inclusive program grants each year, no longer receives any funding from any General Board or Agency for grants or any other aspect of its work; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that

1. every congregation will observe Disability Awareness Sunday annually on the third Sunday of October, or failing that, on another Sunday that suits the congregation’s schedule; and

2. a Special Offering will be taken on DisAbility Awareness Sundays to be divided as follows: a tithe of 25 per cent stays at the local Church for their local congregation’s accessibility and inclusive program needs, a tithe of 25 per cent going to the DisAbility Awareness Fund of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, with the balance going to the DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church (through Advance # 3021054).

2018.02: Maximizing Conference Vitality

2018 Journal, pp. 89-90

Submitted by The Reverends David Felten, Doug Handlong, Mary Bullis (retired), Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dan Hurlbert, George Cushman (retired), David Rennick, Candace Lansbury, Evelene Navarrete, Joel Bullock, Matt Ashley, Mike Kerr-Osman, and Bob Mitchell (retired); and Mr. David James (UMM)

The Conference Board of Trustees supports exploration of the possibility of selling the Conference Headquarters building and moving Conference office operations to Central United Methodist Church or another appropriate local church in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

“Through our collective sharing and work together, we have come to understand that each ministry setting is unique and requires a plan for transformation that is authentic to its identity and context.”1 Living into the vision of being a courageous church in uncertain times, we are inspired to re-examine our collective resources—especially our brick-and-mortar resources—in order to maximize the vitality and effectiveness of our conference and transform our shared ministry.

Acknowledging that our Conference owns an office building in an increasingly desirable residential area

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1 Desert Southwest Conference “Initiative for Growth and Vitality”
and has received at least one inquiry into the possible sale of that property (May 2015)\(^2\) and acknowledging a small income stream from the leasing of space to other organizations (approximately $8,000 per year)\(^3\) and acknowledging that the net building cost for 2017 was $115,000\(^4\), and

Acknowledging that the historic Central United Methodist Church:

- has a large, underutilized facility with multiple flexible office and meeting spaces (including spaces for small to large worship and other events), and
- is in a prime, accessible location (adjacent to light rail and convenient freeway access), and
- has an onsite state-of-the-art digital video studio, and
- is at the heart of a newly revitalized downtown cultural, educational, and residential neighborhood, and,
- offers a meditative, reflective, and outdoor-event-ready courtyard, and
- has plenty of parking, and
- is the site of the founding conference of the Conference, and that
- the trustees of Central United Methodist are open to negotiating usage agreements with the Conference, and that
- the CFA of the DSC has already discussed the possibility of “downsizing” the Conference office, and that
- revenue from the sale of our current Conference Center would be used for renovations necessary to convert existing space at Central United Methodist, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference, represented by a committee appointed by the Bishop, will explore the viability of selling our existing Conference Headquarters building and moving Conference operations to Central United Methodist Church. A report of this committee outlining advantages, disadvantages, and recommendations will be made no later than the 2019 Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Conference.

The Conference Secretary has the ability to make editorial changes that do not change the intent of the petition.

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**2018.03: Statutory/Registered Agents—Local Church**

*2018 Journal, pp. 90-91*

Submitted by Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, and Ministry Strategy Team

WHEREAS many of the local churches in the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) experience frequent fluctuations in volunteers for their administrative committees; and

WHEREAS improved continuity is desirable for DSC churches; and

WHEREAS greater compliance for annual registrations with state corporation commissions would be legally and administratively beneficial for all DSC churches; and

WHEREAS consistent professional support for DSC churches would be helpful in many aspects; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a new Conference Rule be adopted as follows:

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\(^2\) Via Treasurer Randy Bowman (2/26/18): An offer was received from the developer building apartments North of the Meadowbrook property. The offer was for $2,250,000 and was contingent on them also acquiring the two office buildings contiguous to us (which they ultimately were not able to accomplish).

\(^3\) Via Treasurer Randy Bowman (2/26/18): Rent from the Credit Union is $8,000 per year. Our other 2 tenants (the Foundation and Arizona Faith Network) are proved space rent-free.

\(^4\) Via Treasurer Randy Bowman (2/26/18)
A. CONFERENCE RULES

IV. CONFERENCE BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND AGENCIES

Q. TRUSTEES

2. It is strongly recommended that the DSC Chancellor’s office serve as the statutory agent for all Arizona churches in the DSC effective with the next annual registration for each respective local church. For Nevada and California churches in the DSC, it is strongly recommended that the DSC Chancellor’s office be copied on all annual filings and lawsuits filed against the churches effective July 1, 2018.

2018.04: End Family Separation

2018 Journal, p. 91

WHEREAS the United States government recently implemented a coercive “zero tolerance policy” resulting in the traumatic separation of children from immigrant parents and the subsequent incarceration of children in secretive detention centers;
WHEREAS several of the detention facilities are operated within the geographical boundaries of the Desert Southwest Conference;
WHEREAS this practice constitutes a violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, child abuse, harassment and discrimination; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, shall respectfully request the US Department of Justice, and the Attorney General of the United States, Jeff Sessions, and Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen of the Department of Homeland Security immediately discontinue separating children from their families due to the “zero tolerance policy.”

2018.05: Gun Violence Awareness Task Force—Prohibiting Guns on Church Property

2018 Journal, p. 91
Submitted by Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS Jesus calling upon his followers to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) is tied to intimate relationship with God, and echoes God’s dreams for peace for all of creation as expressed in Micah 4:1–4, The United Methodist Church Book of Resolutions calls upon church members to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context. Furthermore, it makes eight specific recommendations congregations may implement to prevent gun violence, including displaying signs to prohibit carrying guns onto church property;
WHEREAS the Desert Southwest Conference calls us to “Be a Courageous Church, Loving like Jesus, Acting for Justice and United in Hope.” In order to live out these principles;
WHEREAS churches have a responsibility to for the safety and wellbeing of every person who enters a church for education and or worship or for any other reason;
WHEREAS the Gun Violence Awareness Task Force has developed the Gun Violence Conversations-Civility in the Age of Chaos program and other resources to assist congregations in developing policies; and
WHEREAS it is affirmed that sworn, active duty law enforcement officers shall be allowed to carry firearms anywhere on church property; therefore, be it
RESOLVED that churches in the Desert Southwest Conference are gun free campuses. They may also choose to post signs prohibiting the carrying of guns either openly or concealed onto church property.

2018.06: Persecuted Christians—Add New Section to Social Principles
2018 Journal, pp. 91-92

Petition submitted by St. Mark’s UMC Church and Society Committee; Recommended by Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS United Methodists share a common heritage with all Christians and recognize our fellow Christians across the world are carrying out Jesus’ Great Commission “to go make disciples of all nations” even at great risk to themselves;

WHEREAS persecution of Christians exists and should be denounced;

WHEREAS the United Methodist Social Principles are the official position of the church on social issues; and

WHEREAS the Social Principles do not contain a stance on persecuted Christians; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) petition the General Conference to:

1. amend the 2016 Book of Discipline Social Principles to add new sub-paragraph Christian Persecution after ¶165. Because we share a common heritage with all Christians we also share a special obligation to denounce the persecution of our fellow Christians. Apostolic witness to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is also our witness. We recognize our fellow Christians are carrying out Jesus’ Great Commission, “to go make disciples of all nations,” even at great risk to themselves. The Church must provide support and encouragement to our fellow Christians and condemn the unjust treatment of members of all religious groups within their borders.

2. submit this change as a petition from the DSC to the 2020 General Conference

2019.01: Motion for Special Conference
2019 Journal, p. 79

Originator: Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC
Amended by: Amy Notbohm, Dayspring UMC

Bishop Bob, members of the annual conference: I move that in accordance with ¶603.5 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, we authorize a special session of Desert Southwest Annual Conference to meet on September 14, 2019 at a United Methodist Church to be named later. The purpose of this special session of the Annual Conference shall be to consider all remaining petitions and resolutions submitted to this current June 2019 session of Annual Conference as well as any other petitions or resolutions submitted for consideration related to the topics of a response to the 2019 special session of the General Conference and about the future of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and/or The United Methodist Church, with the exception of Resolution 8, which is recommended to be considered at this 2019 June Annual Conference. At this June 2019 Annual Conference, we will proceed with legislation as time allows.

2019.02: Affirm Our Covenant
2019 Journal, p. 89

WHEREAS the First Letter of John states: “Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God, everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (I John 4:7-8);
WHEREAS the word translated as “love” in these verses is the Greek word agape, which means to show honor and respect thus bestowing dignity;
WHEREAS First Corinthians states: “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way ... love bears all things, believes all things hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (I Corinthians 13:4-5a, 7-8);" and
WHEREAS in the Gospel of John, Jesus said: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35); now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the United Methodist People and United Methodist Churches of the Desert Southwest Conference:
  1. aspire to practice love by respecting and honoring each other in all our dialogue and discussions;
  2. aspire to express our deepest beliefs, concerns and hopes with each other; and
  3. aspire to listen to understand and embrace all expressions from each other’s hearts without judgment, as we can embrace our faith without demeaning another’s faith.

2019.03: Disavowal of the Traditional Plan
2019 Journal, pp. 89-90
Financial Implications: No
Submitted by Rev. George Cushman, Billie Fidlin, Rev. Stephen Govett, Rev. Tom Jelinek, Kent Olson, Rev. Michael Patzloff, Rev. Beth Rambikur
WHEREAS using contextual biblical scholarship, there is no biblical mandate to discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons and relationships;
WHEREAS The United Methodist Church is capable of great nuance in the matter of biblical interpretation as displayed in its treatment of issues such as divorce and the ordination of women, but reverts to simplistic literalism when it comes to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in its life and ministry;
WHEREAS The United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQ+ persons and their supporters for special punitive action while ignoring the “clear biblical teaching” on other matters such as pensions (Matthew 6:19-20);
WHEREAS in our Wesleyan tradition the first general rule that John Wesley gave the people called Methodists concerns “doing no harm.”
WHEREAS United Methodists promise “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves;”
WHEREAS by passing the Traditional Plan, the denomination has done great, and perhaps irreparable harm to our LGBTQ+ siblings and The United Methodist Church as a whole; and
WHEREAS for the past 10 years, the Desert Southwest Conference has declared itself to be a Reconciling Conference; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference:
  1. condemns the decision of the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan and apologizes for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, friends, and the body of Christ;
  2. affirms that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God; and
  3. asserts and affirms that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.
2019.04: Source of Complaints
2019 Journal, p. 90
Submitted by Revs. Anthony Tang, Dan Hurlbert, DeeDee Azhikakath Lombardi, Mary Klaehn, Beth Rambikur

WHEREAS Jesus gives a method for complaint that involves face to face interaction and membership in the same small intimate body (Matthew 18:15);

WHEREAS “the annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on ... all matters relating to the character and conference relations of clergy members” (2016 Book of Discipline ¶33);

WHEREAS John and Charles Wesley gathered the people called Methodists into small, regional groups for the purpose of growing together in faith and love of the Lord;

WHEREAS clergy members of the annual conference are called apart to a covenant of mutual accountability in love;

WHEREAS part of keeping this covenant may involve the administration of complaints against a sibling elder, deacon, associate member, provisional member, licensed local pastor, or certified lay minister;

WHEREAS all complaint processes regarding annual conference members take place within the membership of the annual conference because, within our covenant community, we know each other better than do others who are members of the larger, connectional church who live far away; and

WHEREAS in our world of wireless digital communication it is possible for frivolous religious complaints to come from persons unknown to our “basic body in the Church;” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference bishop and cabinet process noncriminal/religious complaints against members serving in our annual conference only when said complaint has proceeded from clergy or lay members of the Desert Southwest Conference. This resolution shall have no bearing on criminal complaints (including, but not limited to crimes, sexual abuse, and fiscal malfeasance) which may originate from any location.

2019.SS.01: Adoption of Desert Southwest Conference Theological Statement
2019 Special Session
Financial Implications: no

Submitted by Clayton M. Bowman, Pastor Noni Dye, Rev. Nancy Cushman, Sylvia Harris, Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Rev. Dr. Larry Norris, Lea Ann Davis, Rev. Dr. Evelyn McDonald

WHEREAS United Methodists are the people of two books which guide our spiritual and communal lives, The Bible, as our authoritative scriptures, and The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, our Book of the Covenant;

WHEREAS theology consists of two Greek words, theos which means God and logos which means word or words about God, and our Book of Discipline suggests we use the Wesley Quadrilateral as the basis for theologizing (¶105);

WHEREAS the Bible calls for radical inclusivity many times over, including when Peter set aside Jewish law to visit a Gentile’s household when it was revealed to him that he “should not call anyone profane or unclean” (Acts 10); and

WHEREAS the United Methodist, Book of Discipline, calls us to a theology of radical inclusivity and defines an inclusive church as “one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community, and the world;” (¶140) now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference
1. Shall adopt the attached Theological Statement of the DSC Way Forward;
2. Shall adopt the attached Executive Summary of the Theological Statement;
3. Encourage all pastors and lay delegates to share these documents with their local church;
4. Commit to a theological foundation that affirms that all persons are welcomed; and
5. In response to the 2019 General Conference affirm that the LGBTQIA+ community have all rights of full membership in our church

Theological Statement of the DSC Way Forward

The Context of Our Theological Task

Our journey begins as we rehearse these words from The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church:

"Theology is our best effort to reflect upon God's gracious action in our lives. In response to the love of Christ, we desire to be drawn into a deeper relationship with 'faith's pioneer and perfecter.' Our theological explorations seek to give expression to the mysterious reality of God's presence, peace, and power in the world. By so doing, we attempt to articulate more clearly our understanding of the divine-human encounter and are thereby more fully prepared to participate in God's work in the world . . . As United Methodists, we are called to identify the needs both of individuals and of society and to address those needs out of the resources of Christian faith in a way that is clear, convincing, and effective. Theology serves the Church by interpreting the world's needs and challenges to the Church and by interpreting the gospel to the world" (Paragraph 105, p. 80).

As we think about the theological position of the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) and, in particular, the DSC Way Forward, we affirm that our theological directive is set within this broad mandate, and also affirm what the Discipline says about the nature of theological reflection. This inquiry is both critical and constructive, individual and communal, and contextual and incarnational (Paragraph 105, p. 81-82). The very nature of this task compels us to think broadly, deeply, and creatively about how God's grace and love works in our world to bring about transformation, discipleship, and witness. The DSC takes serious its mission statement, that we are to be "A Courageous Church loving like Jesus, acting for justice, and united in hope."

Our contemporary culture is a remarkable cacophony of voices that come from social, cultural, political, economic, and religious diversity. These expressions have always been present, to a greater or lesser degree, but the tenor of the times has brought increased dissension and outright conflict over many issues. The perspectives in the prevailing culture are pitched to heightened levels of dialogue and frustration, fueled by the continued growth of diverse secular attitudes; the voices of groups that have long-felt marginalized by society; a strong ethic of individualism in contrast to communal ways of living; the recognition of science and technology as persuasive aspects of our lives; and changing feelings that deemphasize as well as challenge the role of religion and the institutional church. In the midst of a great diversity of voices within the American United Methodist Church, we must also acknowledge the total spectrum of voices within United Methodism imbedded in the cultures of Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral

We not only claim a solid theological foundation as stated in The Discipline of The United Methodist Church, but also recognize the Wesleyan Quadrilateral as articulated by Albert Outler as helpful in integrating our points of view as United Methodists. Based on the distinctive theological orientation of John Wesley as it emerged from both his pietistic experiences with the Moravians as well as his classical theological training at Oxford, Wesley built a theology of personal holiness and social justice, seeking and living God's will in our personal and social lives. Wesley never used the phrase,
"Quadrilateral," but Outler, in catching the nuances of Wesley's thinking, has given expression to it with these terms: Scripture, Experience, Tradition, and Reason.

**Scripture:** We affirm that the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian New Testament disclose the love of God for humanity and for all creation. It is "the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine" (Paragraph 105, p.83). It is one of many witnesses to God in the world, but for Christians, it becomes the primary standard by which we judge faith and practice. For John Wesley, Scripture was foundational, both timely and timeless, and he always recognized that it must be relevant to the church and in the lives of believers. Scripture may be approached from different perspectives and examined with different lenses. However, the best tools and skills of biblical interpretation are needed to do contextual study so as to draw out the most accurate meaning that a writer intended. Sound interpretation must always prevail over any approach that compromises an accurate understanding of Scripture. There is always the danger of a reader imposing his or her presuppositions, agendas, or biases into the interpretation of a biblical text.

**Experience:** We all bring our collective and individual experiences to the understanding of theology. We have all been shaped in the caldron of our environment. We are a product of biological, social, historical, and location factors. Our core values, norms, mores, beliefs, taboos, and fears (real and perceived) have all been influenced by dynamics in our families of origin (including genetics), educational opportunities (positive and negative), political exposure, socioeconomic circumstance, geographical environment (e.g., urban, suburban, rural), and religious practices. Our personalities, each unique and precious, have not been created in a vacuum. We are each unique persons of the world that has molded us. Thus, we recognize our differences that originate from many sources as we engage our free will with situations thrust upon us.

**Tradition:** The legacy of our faith embraces a four-thousand-year history. The traditions of Christianity and Judaism bring long and complex histories. In the awareness of rich and gifted contributions of laity, rabbis, clergy, and social and spiritual movements, we nonetheless acknowledge that, at times, our traditions have been driven, and even complicit, in promoting prejudice, discrimination, alienation, and physical and cultural genocide. The United Methodist Church is passionate about facing and changing inequities of all kinds. Traditions are worth preserving but must never be used to defend or maintain injustice.

**Reason:** *The Book of Discipline* recognizes that any adequate theological statement addresses the importance of reason. We believe that all truth is from God and that, through reason, we interpret Scripture, clarify our Christian witness, articulate and ask questions as we seek God's will, and check the internal coherence of our witness with Scripture, our experiences, and our traditions. Reason helps us to discern a holistic view of reality that joins together "knowledge, experience, and service" (paragraph 105, p. 88, *Discipline*). Further, we affirm the importance of reason to discriminate "the connections between revelation and reason, faith and science, [and] grace and nature" (paragraph 105, p. 88, *Discipline*).

**The Challenge of Preserving Unity in Diversity**

We are currently in a struggle that will determine the preservation or fragmentation of The United Methodist Church. Our disagreements are not over the fundamental doctrinal and theological foundations of our denomination nor are they over the distinctive Wesleyan emphases. We articulate our personal interpretations but we generally affirm the great doctrines of the orthodox church. Also, we affirm Wesley's teachings about justification and assurance; sanctification and perfection; faith and good works; mission and service; and the nature and mission of the church. These beliefs found roots in German Moravian pietism and later were also found in the Evangelical United Brethren tradition as articulated in the theology of Phillip William Otterbein, who came from a Reformed background. As United Methodists, we share in the Reformed tradition and, as some would say, we are reformed and
are always reforming! In all these traditions, God's grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the dynamic that gives substance and vitality to Christian life. Wesley never drew back from the communal form of expression that he believed built the community of faith in worship, prayer, witness, and social justice. This thinking was instrumental in forming what would later become the "connectional mentality" of the Methodist Church.

What is crucial to understand is that, in spite of what divides us today in The United Methodist Church around sensitive and important issues, there is much that all United Methodists hold in common and celebrate. Although we have differences in how we interpret Scripture and apply it to a rapidly changing world, this has always been the case. We have always struggled yet affirmed and rejoiced in the gift of diversity and inclusion. We have believed that we could all live together under "One Tent," honoring our diversity and believing that made us stronger as the Body of Christ.

The Passion for Inclusiveness

The DSC Way Forward continues to maintain, without apology, its position and support not only of embracing diversity but also of achieving the goal of full inclusion. Full inclusion as the goal of The United Methodist Church has always been a priority. The Discipline (Paragraph 140, p. 101, "Called to Inclusiveness") states:

"We recognize that God made all creation and saw it was good. As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the church and in society, we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to all persons. Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community, and the world; therefore, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination. The services of worship at every local church of The United Methodist Church shall be open to all persons. The mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community, and the world. A further mark of inclusiveness is the setting of church activities in facilities accessible to persons with disabilities."

The voice of inclusion within The United Methodist Church has been an integral part of its history and theology. The past decisions of our denomination demonstrate that it has changed its collective mind from one of exclusion to inclusion in many cases, usually through a slow and painful process. It has occurred with respect to individuals, groups, and/or classes of people who were judged as inferior, defective, or inadequate because of some social, cultural, or physical characteristic or feature. There has always been a gap between the ideal and reality. Full inclusion is rooted in the radical hospitality of God's grace and forgiveness. We all come to the Lord's table needing the Lord's grace and forgiveness. We are each a work in progress and so is the Church. Thus, we recognize the inequality that has existed and continues to exist along lines of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, disability, and national origin. We also believe that addressing policies, procedures, guidelines, and behaviors that continue to bring physical, psychological, and social wounds to persons need to be boldly confronted and changed.

The Task Ahead

We believe that, in addressing these contradictions, we are giving expression to our confirmation and reception vows of membership into the Church (Paragraph 217, p. 157). These vows, in part, state we are to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of [our] sin." We are also to "accept the freedom and power God gives [us] to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." Anything that diminishes or denies the full humanity of an individual is evil and may lead to inconceivable injustice. It denies the creative work of God who "knit me in my mother’s womb" (Psalm 139:13 NRSV). It is hard to go on and have a full life when one has been judged as defective or inadequate by society or by the church for reasons that are arbitrary and subjective. We believe that full inclusion is the outgrowth of the
unconditional love of God. That love is the root of justice. We seek full inclusion for all persons whose voices need to be heard. All are children of God.

In particular, this means addressing those statements in *The Book of Discipline* that articulate those Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (paragraph 161, pp. 105-144) that are in conflict with its own theology of full inclusion. However, in stating this position, we also recognize the nature of variant cultures in which The United Methodist Church is implanted. Full inclusion may be understood in different ways given a cultural and social context. In a diverse denomination, one that holds the hearts and souls of over twelve million believers, let us remember the words of John Wesley: “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

We are many voices, but we must be one spirit as we bring together our statements of faith, our theology, our social principles, and our witness to a world that desperately needs to know the love of God in Jesus Christ. In this quest, we seek unity, not uniformity.

**Executive Summary of the Theological Statement of the DSC Way Forward**

“Thisology is our best effort to reflect upon God's gracious action in our lives. . . As United Methodists, we are called to identify the needs both of individuals and of society and to address those needs out of the resources of Christian faith in a way that is clear, convincing, and effective” *(The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, Paragraph 105).* As we think about the theological position of the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) and, in particular, the DSC Way Forward, we affirm that our theological directive is set within this broad mandate. The DSC takes seriously its mission statement that we are to be “A Courageous Church loving like Jesus, acting for justice, and united in hope.” Our contemporary culture is a remarkable cacophony of voices that come from social, cultural, political, economic, and religious diversity. In the midst of a great diversity of voices within the American United Methodist Church, we must also acknowledge the total spectrum of voices within United Methodism imbedded in the cultures of Africa, Asia, and Europe.

We not only claim a solid theological foundation as stated in *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, but also recognize the Wesleyan Quadrilateral as articulated by Albert Outler. In catching the nuances of Wesley’s thinking, Outler has given expression to the theological task through the lenses of Scripture, Experience, Tradition, and Reason.

We are currently in a struggle that will determine the preservation or fragmentation of The United Methodist Church. In spite of what divides us today in The United Methodist Church around sensitive and important issues, there is much more that all United Methodists hold in common. We have always struggled yet affirmed and rejoiced in the gift of diversity and inclusion. The DSC Way Forward continues to maintain its position and support not only of embracing diversity but also of achieving the goal of full inclusion. We recognize the inequality that has existed and continues to exist along the lines of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, disability, and national origin. We also believe that addressing policies, procedures, guidelines, and behaviors that continue to bring physical, psychological, and social wounds to persons need to be boldly confronted and changed.

Anything that diminishes or denies the full humanity of an individual is evil and may lead to inconceivable injustice. There is a need to address those statements in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* that articulate those Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (paragraph 161 pp. 105-144) that are in conflict with its own theology of full inclusion. Full inclusion may be understood in different ways given a cultural and social context. Although we are many voices, we must be one spirit as we bring together our statements of faith, our theology, our social principles, and
our witness to a world that desperately needs to know the love of God in Jesus Christ. In this quest, we seek unity, not uniformity.

2019.SS.02: Integrity of Faithfulness
2019 Special Session
Financial Implications: no
Submitted by Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Billie Fidlin, Rev. Stephen Govett, Rev. Tom Jelinek, Kent Olson, Rev. Michael Patzloff, Rev. Elizabeth Rambikur

WHEREAS our faith is the expression of our intimate relationship with God influencing our deepest values and mores;
WHEREAS it is essential that all people be able to live from the integrity of their core beliefs about God and God’s call to discipleship; and
WHEREAS any legislation that denies this expression of faith is to deny a person the opportunity to live God’s calling and direction; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference:

1. Encourages all churches to follow a path that ensures the rights of all people to follow their hearts and live from the integrity of their faith and
2. Encourages our Bishop and Annual Conference leaders to be in dialogue with other Conferences and Jurisdictions to investigate coalitions that would support the ability of people to live by the integrity of their faith.

2019.SS.03: Respecting Cultural Differences
2019 Special Session
Financial Implications: No
Submitted by Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Billie Fidlin, Rev. Stephen Govett, Rev. Tom Jelinek, Kent Olson, Rev. Michael Patzloff, Rev. Elizabeth Rambikur

WHEREAS we of the Desert Southwest Conference acknowledge and respect the cultural differences that exist within our international denomination, and view it as a strength;
WHEREAS The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church allows for such differences outside of the United States in the designation of Central Conferences, which have the power to change and adapt the Discipline as the conditions in their respective areas may require (¶ 31 Article IV section 5);
WHEREAS The Book of Discipline contains 109 references in which the language “Jurisdiction or Central Conference” is used, which indicates that the Discipline views Jurisdictional and Central Conferences as similar in structure and organization; and
WHEREAS Jurisdictional Conferences cannot change or adapt the Discipline as the cultures in their respective areas may require; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference:

1. Work with the Western Jurisdiction to allow the Discipline to be changed and adapted as conditions in the Western Jurisdiction may require; and
2. Acknowledge that this change can come in several forms:
   a. afford the Western Jurisdiction the powers that Central Conferences have to change and adapt the Discipline; or
   b. allow the Western Jurisdiction to live into a new way of being which enables it to do effective ministry within its cultural context.
2019.SS.04: Preserve Our Connectionalism
2019 Special Session
Financial Implications: no
Submitted by Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Billie Fidlin, Rev. Stephen Govett, Rev. Tom Jelinek, Kent Olson, Rev. Michael Patzloff, Rev. Elizabeth Rambikur
WHEREAS we have a heritage of 35 years of ministry together as the Desert Southwest Conference;
WHEREAS we have achieved significant milestones in building God’s kingdom together in the southwest;
WHEREAS we have done great works as a theologically diverse conference; and
WHEREAS we have created many special relationships and bonds, individually and as churches; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference:
1. Seek to remain together, united in our Wesleyan heritage,
2. Grants authority to our Bishop and Conference leadership to take whatever steps necessary, including participation in a special session of Jurisdictional Conference, to preserve our unity; and
3. Designates the delegates elected to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference to serve as our representatives to any specially called conferences.

2019.SS.05: Renouncing Divisive and Destructive Strategies
2019 Special Session
Submitted by Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Billie Fidlin, Rev. Tom Jelinek, Rev. Stephen Govett, Kent Olson, Rev. Michael Patzloff
WHEREAS in the Gospel of John, Jesus told his disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35);
WHEREAS in First Corinthians, Paul wrote, “Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.” (1 Corinthians 1:10);
WHEREAS John Wesley, in a 1786 sermon, decried schism, and advocated for unity in the Body of Christ (John Wesley, “On Schism,” 1786);
WHEREAS the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the precursor denominations of the United Methodist Church, both encountered significant controversies over the ordination of women and minorities, and over social change brought about by the civil rights movement, but neither denomination divided over those issues;
WHEREAS Issues surrounding human sexuality have been a subject of controversy in the United Methodist Church since 1972, but were not considered a basis for possible division of the denomination for the vast majority of that time;
WHEREAS United Methodists of many perspectives have dismissed or excluded those with different convictions, exacerbating a lack of community that has contributed to the divisiveness currently present in our denomination;
WHEREAS the Confessing Movement, Good News, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and other “renewal” groups have advocated division in the United Methodist Church, and their influence has played a major role in the move towards schism that has occurred in recent General Conferences; and
WHEREAS a document titled “Options for the Future, With Some Strategic Implications, Summer 2004,” written by current and former Good News board members and staff, and studied by the Good News
Board of Directors, outlined a plan in which “the United Methodist Church would cease to exist”, and in describing another plan, stated that it would be a “disadvantage” that “It also leaves the United Methodist denomination somewhat intact, with the accumulation of resources to potentially continue for decades…” (“Options for the Future With Some Strategic Implications Summer 2004,” pp. 5, 7, 8); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC), individual churches and individuals, and new and reforming church movements:

1. Affirm that any future actions by the Confessing Movement, Good News, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and any other “renewal” organizations deemed appropriate to further divide or eliminate the United Methodist Church or its successor denominations are contrary to the will of God, and to the express teachings of Jesus Christ;

2. Contact the Confessing Movement, Good News, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and any other “renewal” organizations deemed appropriate, and express that the DSC finds the content of “Options for the Future With Some Strategic Implications, Summer 2004” and other similar plans Inconsistent with foundational biblical principles, denominational history, and the desire of our Conference to love our neighbors as ourselves, and strive for unity in our Conference, the United Methodist Church, and the body of Christ; and

3. Contact the General Board of Church and Society, and strongly urge it to contact the Confessing Movement, Good News, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and any other “renewal” organizations it deems appropriate, and strongly urge those organizations to specifically and publicly renounce current or future strategies to further divide or eliminate the United Methodist Church or its successor denominations, and focus their efforts on unity in spite of our differences.

2019.SS.06: Dialogue with Central Conference Leaders

WHEREAS the General Conference of The United Methodist Church is composed of delegates from around the world;

WHEREAS these delegates have an equal voice in the forming the policies, procedures, rules, theological statements, and polity of The United Methodist Church;

WHEREAS at the 2020 General Conference, 52% of the voting members will represent The United States, and 48% will represent the Central Conferences;

WHEREAS it is estimated that 70% of United States delegates do not support the Traditional Plan, and almost 100% of the delegates from the Central Conferences support it;

WHEREAS Central Conferences have the ability to vote on General Conference legislation individually, effectively ignoring legislation that produces cultural difficulties in their local context, and United States Conferences do not have that option;

WHEREAS the Wesleyan Covenant Association has successfully lobbied Central Conference delegates to support the Traditional Plan, promoting a very conservative agenda for The United Methodist Church that does not reflect the theology of the majority of congregations in the United States;

WHEREAS a minority of the United States delegates have the ability to prevail with the votes of the Central Conference delegates, making a mass exodus of members from United States likely; and
WHEREAS by the 2024 General Conference, Central Conference delegates may be the majority voting
block, enabling them to dictate policy that United States Conferences must follow, while the Central
Conferences may exempt themselves from following those policies; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference
  1. Encourages our Bishop, Robert Hoshibata, to be in dialogue with Central Conference leaders of
     our desire to continue to be in ministry with them and to see the continued flourishing of the
     United Methodist Church worldwide;
  2. Encourages members of the Council of Bishops to be in dialogue with Central Conference
     delegates of our desire to continue to be in ministry with them and to see the continued
     flourishing of the United Methodist Church worldwide; and
  3. Encourages United States delegates to create a structure where United States Conferences and Central Conferences will
     vote separately on social issues, while continuing to work together to support mission and
     ministry around the world.

2019.SS.08: Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy
2019 Special Session
Financial Implications: No
Doug Handlong, Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Rev. Antoenette Fernandes, Rev. David
Rennick, Rev. Melissa Rynders

Section 1: Keeping Connection while Breaking Apart
WHEREAS the Desert Southwest Conference has been a Reconciling Conference for 10 years;
WHEREAS we recognize a profound division in The United Methodist Church which appears to be
moving to a redefinition of its organization;
WHEREAS within our conference we find deep divides along theological lines that prevent us from fully
engaging one another in ministry that embraces the full diversity of our community;
WHEREAS division of our denomination over the proper regard, role, and status of persons who are
LGBTQIA+ may have now become irreconcilable;
WHEREAS the delegates and bishops of the Western Jurisdiction have made unified statements as one
body working together; and
WHEREAS if a time comes when we can no longer be a part of The United Methodist Church, we see the
best way forward from a broken connection is to form new connections; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, that exploration of a pathway of separation for the Desert Southwest Conference be sought
as much in cooperation with our brothers and sisters of the Western Jurisdiction as is possible; and,
be it further
RESOLVED, that such work include seeking a way in the work of General Conference 2020 which would
permit jurisdictions, conferences, and churches to separate from The United Methodist Church and
form a new denomination with new structure as deemed appropriate by the forming bodies.

Section 2: Values for Moving Forward
WHEREAS trying to anticipate or predict what will happen at General Conference 2020 is nearly
impossible;
WHEREAS while we cannot control much of what happens, we can most certainly control our attitude
and actions in response;
WHEREAS doing nothing, waiting to see what will happen and then hoping for the best is a failure at
planning; and
WHEREAS when there are many variables at play and an exact future is indiscernible, the effective leader works at setting in place operating values to shape how best decisions will be made when the time arrives; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference sets in place these values; If the division of our denominational body becomes necessary any split will be handled in ways that are equitable, amicable, and honorable. We simply decline to operate in a vindictive or punitive manner on a personal or corporate level and we hold to processes of honoring each other as we are working out details of division over our differences.

Section 3: Protecting Our Colleagues While Seeking A New Future
WHEREAS the February 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church singled out LGBTQIA+ persons, supporters, and allies for specific punitive action;
WHEREAS we recognize in the Traditional Plan the systematization of institutional oppression through the establishment and strict enforcement of rules over one group of people;
WHEREAS this conference condemned the Traditional Plan at Annual Conference June 2019;
WHEREAS the punishments of the Traditional Plan are set to take effect at 12:01 am, January 1, 2020, threatening immediate and destructive action against lives and careers of LGBTQIA+ persons, allies, and supporters; and
WHEREAS what is at stake with the implementation of new rules and punitive punishments of the Traditional Plan, are the careers of professional clergy, including candidates, consecrated and ordained persons who are giving their lives in service to God’s call through the United Methodist denomination; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference yearns to be and will unceasingly strive to bring to completion a conference of full acceptance and a suspension or reversal of rules which enable complaints against candidates and members of the clergy having to do with acceptance, marriage, or ordination of LGBTQIA+ persons; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that until that time we strongly encourage our episcopal authority to not take up for consideration any complaints of such a nature. We simply decline to operate in a vindictive or punitive manner on a personal or corporate level and hold to processes nurturing and honoring and embracing of all God’s children.

2019.SS.09: A Moratorium on Complaints, Investigations and Trials Against LGBTQ+ Clergy and those Clergy Officiating Same-Gender Weddings

WHEREAS John Wesley’s Three General Rules are: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God;
WHEREAS harm was caused to LGBTQ+ persons when in 1972 the sentence, “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible
with Christian teaching” was added as an amendment to the statement on Human Sexuality which in the same paragraph had just affirmed “that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God...;”

WHEREAS harm was caused to LGBTQ+ persons when in 1984, a time when same-gender marriage was not legal, the phrase, “fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness” was added to the discipline as requirements of candidates for ordination. The author of the phrase, Bishop Jack Tuell, in a sermon preached at Claremont UMC on May 18, 2003, stated that this was added specifically to exclude homosexual persons from ordination;

WHEREAS these formed the basis of The Book of Discipline paragraphs used to bring complaints against LGBTQ+ clergy and those officiating same-gender weddings; Whereas the Traditional Plan which was passed at the Special Session of General Conference in February 2019 made these restrictions and punishments more severe;

WHEREAS annual conferences, churches, and individual United Methodists across the connection (including the Desert Southwest Annual Conference) have done good by repeatedly stating their opposition to the passing of the Traditional Plan at the February 2019 General Conference;

WHEREAS the Desert Southwest Annual Conference affirmed its commitment to do good in 2009, declaring itself to be a Reconciling Conference;

WHEREAS it is essential that all people be able to live from the integrity of their core beliefs about God and God’s call to discipleship; and

WHEREAS persons across the theological spectrum are doing good by having conversations to accomplish new directions for the denomination at the General Conference 2020; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference:

1. Do good by reaffirming its commitment found in our Baptismal Covenant; to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms, and toward all people and further, to build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities and

2. Follow the call of John Wesley to do good and not do harm by declaring an immediate and indefinite moratorium on complaints, investigations, and trials against LGBTQ+ clergy (Elders, Deacons, and Licensed Local Pastors) as well as any clergy (Elders, Deacons, and Licensed Local Pastors) officiating same-gender weddings, in The United Methodist Church as a whole, and specifically within this annual conference—including any that may already be underway.
RESOLUTIONS REFERRED BY THE CONFERENCE

1985.07: Local Church Utilities and Conference Apportionment Formula
1985 Journal, p. 39
Submitted by Larry A. Hinshaw, Donald E. Morse, C. Travis Kendall, William Charles, C. Edwin Daniel
Referred to Conference Council on Finance and Administration

WHEREAS, each local church in this Annual Conference is suffering from rapidly accelerating utility rates and as a result many have cut (and some must cut more) much needed staff and programs thus weakening the mission of the church, and;
WHEREAS, Conference Apportionments are assigned to district and then to local churches on a grade figure basis the formula of which is designated to attempt to be fair to all concerned and is based on the assumption that increases in a local church expense budget represent a real increase in local church strength.
WHEREAS, the cost of local church utility bills is as much a function of geography and which local utility is billing them as it is a measure of church use, and;
WHEREAS, utility increases assigned local churches may bear less resemblance to increases in programs or local church strength than it does to the fiscal solvency of the utility, and;
WHEREAS, churches in California are charged a rate that differs from those in Arizona, and churches in Tucson are charged a rate differing from that charged by Mesa which is different from those in the Salt River Valley Water User’s District which is 15% less than that charged churches by Arizona Public Services which also bills churches on a 80% ratchet peak demand and will have the largest increases in rates in order to help pay for the world’s largest and most expensive Atomic plant; and these rates are different from those paid by churches in Nevada, and these are only a partial listing of inequities, and;
WHEREAS, the announced utility rate increases throughout the bounds of this Conference, while varying widely in percentage will still be painful to even the strongest of churches and perhaps life-threatening to many; and
WHEREAS, local church apportionments will rise sharply as a further local church penalty as an inevitable result of utility increased unless our Conference Apportionment formula is modified to exclude utility payments by local churches,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference at its June, 1985, sessions, eliminate local church utilities from consideration as part of Conference Apportionments to be assigned local church in 1986 and thereafter.

1986.09: Clergy Moving Arrangements
1986 Journal, p. 36
Submitted by Bill Usher, John Blackwell, Bob Stanley, Jim Standiford, Hal Cowart, Herbert Osman
Referred to Council on Finance and Administration

WHEREAS we are continuing to operate under the guidelines established during the Pacific Homes Crisis by which the conference agreed to pay 80% of the cost for the minister to move himself/herself through U-Haul or some other similar arrangement
WHEREAS clergy own most of their furniture and are not usually experts in the art of loading household goods and are generally noted for having strong minds and weak backs
WHEREAS moving itself is enough of a trauma without having to load and unload furniture
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference amend Para. G.3 of the Conference Rules, p. 134 of the 1985 Journal to read: A professional moving company shall effect
the move of a minister. The Annual Conference shall be responsible for 80% of those costs related to packing materials, insurance, loading and unloading by the moving company. The remaining 20% shall be paid by the church receiving the minister.

1987.06: For Ongoing Media Support of the Local Churches of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and the Creation of a Permanent Media Center

WHEREAS the local churches of the former Pacific and Southwest Conference relied upon the services of the United Methodist Center (hereafter called UMMC) located in Pasadena, California, for assistance in addressing the media needs of their congregations.

WHEREAS the creation of the Desert Southwest Conference did not alter that relationship. By an action of the Committee on Communications, every local church of the Desert Southwest Conference held membership in the UMMC, thereby increasing the usage of the UMMC by 100% over 1985; from 35-40 churches in 1985 to more than 70 churches in 1986.

WHEREAS in 1986 an agreement was approved by both conferences to provide for a fair and equitable asset division of the UMMC. The agreement provided for a refund of our share of the asset value over a five year period. This refund would be in the form of 50% discount in the membership fees. We pay 50% of the fees due for all Desert South-west Conference churches to become members of the UMMC and keep the other 50% as “asset credit”. Over five years this would total approximately $25,000, our share of the “asset value” of the UMMC.

WHEREAS at the conclusion of this five year period, December 31, 1990, the Desert Southwest Conference must address its media needs and determine the best possible method of resourcing its congregations.

WHEREAS at least 100 churches of other protestant denominations, who were formerly serviced by an agency which is no longer fully operational, need the services of a complete media center.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference:

1. Establish a media center within the bounds of the Conference by July 1, 1991
2. That the Conference enter into the following financial plan that would assist in the capitalization of a newly formed Media Center:
   A. That the fund balance for Media Support in the 1986 budget, the “asset credit” refund, be placed into a designated non-collapsible account and held until Annual Conference 1990 when a detailed plan for the creation of a Media Center in the Conference would be implemented.
   B. That the fiscal years of 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, the Conference Council on Ministries, request from the Council on Finance and Administration or its equivalent, that the amount identified as “asset credit” above, together with an amount to be determined and budgeted through the appropriate budgeting process, but totaling not less than $10,000 per year combined, be added to the same holding account.
   C. That the Conference Committee on Communications, or its equivalent, be instructed to immediately begin planning for the establishment of a Media Center within the bounds of the Conference by Annual Conference 1991.
   D. That the Conference Committee on Communications, or its equivalent, be instructed to aggressively pursue ecumenical participation.
1990.14: Improving Transportation for Elderly and Handicapped
1990 Journal, p. 38
Referred to Conference Board of Discipleship
WHEREAS, United Methodists are concerned for care and service for elderly and of handicapped; and,
WHEREAS, this is becoming one of our United Methodist Conference priorities and concerns in both Arizona and So. Nevada; and,
WHEREAS, Las Vegas in order to attract conferences and residents who may be elderly and or handicapped who often need to use public transportation; and,
WHEREAS, Las Vegas is sadly lacking in adequate public transportation, much less for elderly or handicapped;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, We urge the City of Las Vegas, Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, and local bus companies, to immediately proceed to improve the bus routes in the Las Vegas area, including service to the main airports, provide more handicapped buses and in general a greater sensitivity and planning to serve the needs of all residents and visitors who may need or want adequate and affordable public transportation in Clark County now.

2001.00: Act of Repentance
2001 Journal, p. 52
Referred to Session Committee
WHEREAS the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church ¶162A call for the rights of racial and ethnic persons in the face of continued racism and institutional structures of discrimination which remain deeply embedded in our society.
WHEREAS the 2000 General Conference adopted Resolution 149. Act of Repentance for Racism which called for each congregation to use the study guide: Steps Toward wholeness: Learning and Repentance and requested each Annual Conference to engage in a liturgical act of repentance in 2001.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the during the remainder of the year 2001 that the DSW Annual Conference seek to fulfil the requirements of this Resolution and plan in the year 2001 to engage in a liturgical act of repentance at our next meeting of the Annual Conference.

2002.70: Resolution on Sexuality Curriculums
2002 Journal, pp. 65-66
Referred to Covenant Council
RESOLUTION: Creating an Oversight and Certification Committee for those persons teaching sexuality curriculums within the DSW Conference
WHEREAS, there are a number of sexuality curriculums with various instructors being used throughout the DSW Conference, there is a need to guarantee the quality of these materials and those persons teaching them.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a board to be called The Sexuality Education Committee be created to supervise and certify teachers and their curriculums for those who want to teach these courses in churches in our DSW Conference.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this committee would meet at least once a year, more often if needed. They would interview teachers, be presented with curriculum outlines, a complete lesson plan and/or other materials such as videos that the committee might choose to review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this would provide support to teachers by being able to interact and share information, problems and needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that evaluations by participants at a church would be sent to the Committee Chairperson following a Seminar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee would receive as an operating budget $1,000 from the Children and Youth Board funds to be used for leadership training, mailings and miscellaneous other needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following names be proposed at this time to make up this Committee:

Dave West  Juanita Scheel
Sally West  Lynn Hamilton
Betty Zimmerman  Fred Baum

2003.30: Tobacco Resolution

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church historically has opposed the use of tobacco products and their devices in the Social Principles ¶162K:
"We affirm our historic tradition of high standards of personal discipline and social responsibility. In light of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are hazardous to the health of all ages, we recommend total abstinence from the use of tobacco. We urge that our educational and communication resources be utilized to support and encourage such abstinence. Further, we recognize the harmful effects of passive smoke and support the restriction of smoking in public areas and workplaces."

WHEREAS the sixth commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill."

WHEREAS the medical community and the Surgeon General have known the causal effects of tobacco and disease and death for over fifty years.

WHEREAS annually more than 450,000 people in the United States die because of the over 240 cancer causing ingredients in tobacco products and their devices. This is equivalent to all the American casualties in all the wars of the 20th Century occurring every eighteen months and the same number of casualties of Sept. 11, 2001 occurring every three days.

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has intentionally maintained for itself the authority to regulate the ingredients in tobacco products.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United Methodist Church strongly urges the members of Congress to provide the authority to the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the ingredients of tobacco products and their devices in order to render harmless the greatest menace to human life in our country's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United Methodist Church will make public the names of those members of Congress who have opposed legislation to permit the regulation of the ingredients in tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration and who have received campaign contributions from tobacco companies.
2003.35: Council of Bishops Middle East Resolution
2003 Journal, p. 64
Referred to Covenant Council

A troubling issue regarding the formal position of the United Methodist Church on the Middle East conflict has been brought to the attention of the Church Conference of St. John's United Methodist Church. The Church Conference discovered that the Council of Bishops adopted a formal resolution on the Middle East stating:

"... Whereas the Palestinian and Israeli forces continue violent acts of terrorism and destruction, often inflicted upon innocent men, women and children. We Therefore Call Upon the United States government, through Congress, to use all measures possible, including the cutting off of all funding the Israeli government ... for all people of the region, and provide financial support to the Palestinian people through contributions to the General Board of Global Ministries ... " (Council of Bishops, Minutes, April 29 - May 4, 2001)

WHEREAS, the Resolution encourages peace and understanding between Israel and Palestine, it calls upon the United States government to cut off all support to only Israel and for the Church to financially support only Palestine. This resolution would better foster and atmosphere of peace, if the Church adopted a position of neutrality.

WHEREAS, St. John's United Methodist Church Conference supports prayer and humanitarian aid for all victims of the Middle East crisis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church reconsider the Resolution as adopted in their Minutes, dated April 29 - May 4, 2001. Furthermore, we call up on all United Methodist communities and churches to seek to nurture healing in this conflict, to pray for all people of the region of Israel and Palestine and support humanitarian aid for all victims in this ongoing dispute.

2003.40: Supporting Health Care Access
2003 Journal, p. 64
Referred to Covenant Council

WHEREAS, United Methodists, along with the general population of the U.S., face serious concerns and inequities in the U.S. health care "system,"

WHEREAS, the Health Care Access Resolution (formerly House Concurrent Resolution 99 in the 10th Congress) outlines fourteen provisions necessary to make comprehensive health care accessible for all Americans, to be enacted by 2005,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we as United Methodists support the passage of HCR 99; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support legislation at federal, state, and local levels that supports the principles set forth in HRC 99, and reject legislation that fails to support its principles and its purpose: equitable, comprehensive, quality health care for us all.

2003.65: Environmental Ministries
2003 Journal, pp. 64-65
Referred to Covenant Council

WHEREAS the United States uses one quarter of the world's resources, and

WHEREAS the United States may have sufficient water quantities, but the quality, especially in the Southwest continues to decline and soon may be useless, and
WHEREAS humans are one species whose existence often means the extinction of other species upon which our very survival may depend, and
WHEREAS Jesus (and other prophets) went to wild places/spaces for spiritual centering and renewal.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert SW Conference will investigate principles of living simply so others can simply live by sponsoring forums and living simply discussions and practices with special emphasis in educating children.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the church will provide meditative spaces and practices within its services and land space and that the church will re-evaluate its energy usage so that consumption of energy is cut in half.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UMC
• encourages the use of foods grown organically to encourage well being for people and the planet
• follows principles of passive solar design when building new or adding on or renovating structures
• uses toilets that flush with under one gallon of water
• practices xeroscape in yards and gardening
• uses gray water systems for gardens
• fosters activities that are meditative and low in energy consumption

2003.85: RESOLUTION of the Native Americans and the Hispanic People Of the Desert Southwest Conference
2003 Journal, p. 65
Recommending and approving the support of the Desert Southwest Conference to be inclusive of all people in its ministry.
WHEREAS: The Native American and Hispanic people are rapidly growing in population within the geographic area of the DSW and its Annual Conference; and
WHEREAS: The Native American and Hispanic people strongly support the vision and mission of the DSW of the DSW Covenant Council; and
WHEREAS: The Native American and Hispanic wish to actively participate in the accomplishment of the vision and mission of the Covenant Council.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the DSW continue to establish leadership that will develop worshipping communities in proportion to its Native and Hispanic population, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the DSW seek the participation of the native and Hispanic people in the leadership roles that will Develop worshipping communities with the Native American and Hispanic People, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the DSW be committed to the newly and on-going established worshipping communities within the Native American and Hispanic communities.

2004:00: Resolution Concerning Availability of Sufficient, Drinkable Water
2004 Journal, pp. 95-96
Referred to Covenant Council
WHEREAS God requires that humankind rule wisely over nature and Jesus requires that his followers provide water for those who are thirsty, comparing himself to that basic requirement for human life: "I am the water of life."
WHEREAS studies have been done concerning the attempts of commercial companies in various places in the world to monopolize the dispensation of water.
WHEREAS the geographical areas in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference are possibly the most concerned of all the conferences in the United Methodist church with assuring clean and sufficient water locally, with large numbers of water issues coming before state and local boards and governing bodies.

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society has links to the eco-justice working group for the source of Earth Sunday materials AND the 2003 topic was "Waters of Life: Enough for All". (2003).

BE IT RESEOLVED that the Desert Southwest annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and especially the Conference Board of Church and Society provide opportunities for its entities to study world, national and local issues concerning the providing of clean and sufficient water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference promote justice in the distribution of water, so that good water is not wasted or used where reclaimed or nonpotable water would be sufficient, so that enough good water to sustain life is available to all.

2004.50: Securing Alcoholic Beverages
2004 Journal, p. 96
Referred to Sessions Committee

WHEREAS among the delegates and observers attending our annual conferences there are children and recovering alcoholics,
WHEREAS each guest room in this facility is stocked with a bar containing alcoholic beverages,
WHEREAS such availability creates a dangerous temptation for alcoholics and children,
THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DSW Annual Conference make provisions for the facility to remove alcohol from delegate and observers rooms or make sure the refrigerators in the rooms are all locked.

2007.50: The Love Resolution
2007 Journal, pp. 63-64
Referred to Covenant Council

WHEREAS: Jesus gave us the Great Commandment, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself. On these two commandments hang all the LAW and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).
WHEREAS: Torah, the law, is understood by the Jewish people to be “a living encounter with God allowing God to be known and felt and continues to be God’s love letter to God’s children” (Aaron 26-27).
WHEREAS: Torah, the Law, states that God is at work in all aspects of life-social, economic, political, and military-so issues of moral accountability will regularly surface (Birch 260).
WHEREAS: Prophets proclaimed and interpreted their understandings of Torah requirements for different generations of Israelites, especially at critical moments in Israel’s history.
WHEREAS: Prophets were seen to be the word of God to the people of God, and that the greatest crisis in Israel would be to lose the word to lead and guide them in their lives. “They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.” (Amos 8:12).
WHEREAS: I John 4:7-8 says, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love” (NRSV).
WHEREAS: This love that Jesus calls us to is not just for those who love us, but Jesus in Luke teaches, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:27, 36 NRSV).
WHEREAS: I Corinthians 13:1-13 gives us a good starting place to understand what it means to live in love (agape). "...Faith, hope and love abide...And the greatest of these is love" (Verse 13 NRSV).
WHEREAS: Jesus says in John 15:11-12 "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
WHEREAS: Matthew 25:31-45 tells us that our love of Christ is manifested in how we respond to the deepest needs of the poor and powerless, those who are the most vulnerable, and most often affected by the social, economic, and political issues of the age. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
AND WHEREAS: The founder of our denomination, John Wesley, calls us to strive toward perfection, meaning striving toward becoming the most loving people we can become.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the church, as the presence of God in creation, is called to keep this prophetic witness alive to provide moral accountability to our society as we seek to be a witness to God's loving desires for all of God's children in our communities, nation and around the world.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That since love is the basis of all we are called to be and do, every church study I Corinthians 13:1-13 and the biblical understandings of agape.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That every resolution that comes before our Annual Conference that deals with a social, covenantal, and biblical issue show how the “Therefore be it resolved” section is an expression of love to the lives of those the resolution addresses.

Works Cited:

2007.55: Resolution Calling for Civility and Substance in Elections
2007 Journal, pp. 64-65
Referred to Covenant Council
WHEREAS: We live in a Democracy where we elect people to represent us and give voice to important national and local issues;
WHEREAS: We expect that our leaders and elected officials will conduct themselves as representatives of our call to be one people and one nation under a loving God;
WHEREAS: We must understand the substantive positions of those running for office so that we can see if their solutions represent the greatest good and justice for all people;
WHEREAS: We recognize that a person’s character may be one of the most important aspects governing our vote;
WHEREAS: How a person conducts themselves during an election may be the most important manifestation of their character.
WHEREAS: Civility and civilization share the same root, reminding us that it is a genuine sense of respecting others, even in our differences, that creates a healthy civilization.
WHEREAS: Character assassination and the coarsening of social discourse seem increasingly more prevalent in our elections;
WHEREAS: We see a United States now being described as two nations with blue states and red states;
WHEREAS: The disrespectful ways in which elections are conducted often lead us to disrespect and distrust good people with different ideas even to the point of questioning and attacking their patriotism at times;
WHEREAS: In this climate of disrespect we tragically see a rise in the participation of hate groups that now feel free to express their own disrespect for others in their prejudices.
WHEREAS: We have begun to lose the heart and soul, the compassion and concern for others that made us a great nation;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we, as the church, do all in our power to hold those who represent us to a standard of behavior that represents the Great Commandment of loving our neighbors and respecting others as children of God;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the debate or dialogue between candidates deal with the merits and strengths of their solutions without disrespects the integrity of their opponents or resorting to name calling as a response to another's position;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That all candidates present solutions in written form to the important issues facing our nation, while not belittling others for their beliefs;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we immediately voice our displeasure to the candidate and his or her political party when he or she diminishes other candidates through character assassination;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We, as the church, make the manner in which candidates conduct themselves a prime basis for whether we vote for them.
WHEREAS: We recognize that a person's character may be one of the most important aspects governing our vote;
WHEREAS: How a person conducts themselves during an election may be the most important manifestation of their character.
WHEREAS: Civility and civilization share the same root, reminding us that it is a genuine sense of respecting others, even in our differences, that creates a healthy civilization.
WHEREAS: Character assassination and the coarsening of social discourse seem increasingly more prevalent in our elections;
WHEREAS: We see a United States now being described as two nations with blue states and red states;
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That all candidates present solutions in written form to the important issues facing our nation, while not belittling others for their beliefs;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we immediately voice our displeasure to the candidate and his or her political party when he or she diminishes other candidates through character assassination;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We, as the church, make the manner in which candidates conduct themselves a prime basis for whether we vote for them.
WHEREAS, Psalm 24 confirms that "the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it," and Romans 8 declares that, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revelation of the children of God... in hope that the creation itself will be set free from it’s bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God," (Romans 8:19-21) and

WHEREAS, each year nearly seven billion tons of heat trapping carbon ends up in the earth’s atmosphere, which contributes to the rise in the earth’s temperature, and to the eleven hottest years on record occurring between 1980 and 1999, and

WHEREAS, recent data strongly indicates that global warming has rapidly accelerated in the last three years, and events that may be, in part, related to the rapid growth are multiplying in both intensity and prevalence, and

WHEREAS, US per capita energy use is approximately twice that of the industrialized nations of Western Europe and Japan, and in relation to densely populated nations, is twelve times that of China, and twenty times that of India, so, while other nations use has remained flat, US use has increased by 15%, and

WHEREAS, 2500 of the world’s leading atmospheric scientists agree that failure to curb automotive and power plant emissions will change the earth’s climate, and trigger more extreme weather, such as floods, droughts, and deadly heat waves which damage cropland and forests, raise the sea level, flood coastal areas, and severely affect human, animal, and plant health, and

WHEREAS, God calls people of faith to participate in the restoration of creation, which we can begin to do by using less energy in our churches and homes, by using energy more efficiently, and by shifting from reliance on fossil fuels to use renewable energy sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church be encouraged to educate themselves and their members on how to become energy stewards in their churches, workplaces, and homes, and to study the Bible, and include God’s concern for creation in worship and prayer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage individual members in the following 10 simple things we can do to help stop global warming: (from the liner note of "An Inconvenient Truth")

Change a light - Replacing one regular light with a compact fluorescent light will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Drive less - Walk, bike, carpool or take metro transit more often. You’ll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile don’t drive.

Recycle more - You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.

Check your tires - Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more that 3%.

Use less hot water - It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a lowflow showerhead (350 pounds of CO2 saved per hear) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).

Avoid products with a lot of packaging - You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.

Adjust your thermostat - Moving you thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Plant a tree - A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.
Turn off electronic devices - Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you’re not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Be a part of the solution - Learn more and get active at ClimateCrisis.net

2007.65 Resolution Concerning Denominational Inclusivity

2007 Journal, pp. 66-67

Referred to Covenant Council

WHEREAS The Gospels affirm the radical inclusion of all persons in the Body of Christ; and

WHEREAS Paragraph 127 of the Book of Discipline states “Entrance into the church is acknowledged in baptism...Baptism is followed by nurture and the consequent awareness by the baptized of the claim to ministry in Christ placed upon their lives by the church. Such a ministry is confirmed by the church when the pledges are accepted through profession of faith and renewed for life and mission.” (pp. 89-90); and

WHEREAS Paragraph 214 of the Book of Discipline states “All people may attend...worship services (in the United Methodist Church), participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church in the connection.” (p. 134); and

WHEREAS Paragraph 225 of the Book of Discipline states “A member in good standing in any Christian denomination who has been baptized and who desires to unite with the United Methodist Church may be received as either a baptized or professing member by a proper certificate of transfer from that person’s former church, or by a declaration of Christian faith, and upon affirming willingness to be loyal to the United Methodist Church.” (p. 139); and

WHEREAS No citation, footnote, paragraph, or provision in the Book of Discipline excludes any person from membership, or gives any person the authority to exclude any other person from membership, in the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the theme of the current evangelism campaign of the United Methodist Church is “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.”; and

WHEREAS the 2006 session Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, affirming the historic inclusivity of the Christian faith as expressed in the gospels, and the inclusivity of the United Methodist Church regarding membership of all persons as expressed in the Book of Discipline, expressed its profound disagreement with any action that prevents persons willing to take the vows of membership from becoming members of the United Methodist Church by adopting a resolution stating the same;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church petition the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to delete the sentence “Without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition” from paragraph 4, lines 4 and 5 of the Book of Discipline; delete the sentence “Because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition” from Paragraph 4, line 12 of the Book of Discipline (both p. 22); and insert the sentence “All unbaptized persons willing to be baptized and recite the appropriate vows, and all baptized persons willing to recite the appropriate vows, shall be accepted into membership in any local church in the connection.” Into paragraph 214, line 6, at the conclusion of the 3rd sentence of the paragraph in the Book of Discipline (p. 134); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary send copies of this resolution to the Judicial Council, the Council of Bishops, all Annual Conferences in the United Methodist Church, and all congregations in the Desert Southwest Conference.
WHEREAS the Gospels of Jesus Christ implore all of God's people to love one another, our neighbors, and our enemies, and all followers of Christ are commissioned to “Make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:16); and

WHEREAS the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), and its committee, UM Action, has characterized mainline churches as "The bulwark of the religious left" and has stated that "The IRD has worked to discredit and diminish the religious left’s influence"; and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church, desiring to be a faithful witness for Christ in the society and world in which we live, and to be in connection with the larger family of Christ, created the General Board of Church and Society, the General Council on Ministries, and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and became a member of the National Council of Churches of Christ and of the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS the IRD’s goals include: “Abolish the General Council on Ministries, (the) General Board of Church and Society, and (the) Commission on the Status and Role of Women,” and curtail United Methodist involvement in the National and World Councils of Churches; and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church, in its desire to share the grace of God in Christ with all people, created financial ministries which support the work of our denomination at all levels, supported by the financial witness of United Methodists around the world; and

WHEREAS the IRD has solicited and received at least $4,764,000 from conservative foundations outside of United Methodism, and has targeted 50% of its resources at the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS advocacy for social justice has been and is a cornerstone of Methodism; the Social Principles of our denomination are “A prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation” (Book of Discipline, p. 95); and general church boards and agencies have vital roles in creating the powerful witness our Social Principles express; and Whereas the IRD’s goals include: “The social principles shall be entirely rewritten...(and) General boards and agencies shall not submit resolutions or petitions to General Conference;” and

WHEREAS representation of the Desert Southwest Conference at general conferences was reduced by 50% at the 2000 General Conference due to IRD supported legislation; and

WHEREAS the IRD called the 2000 General Conference “the most productive...in 40 years," in part because "Delegates...voted to reapportion the composition of future general conferences so that declining (and liberal) regions of the church such as the northeast and west coast will receive fewer delegates;" and the IRD is currently promoting an annual conference resolution which would reduce the number of Episcopal areas in the Western Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS UM Action Director Mark Tooley, responding to the Council of Bishops document “A Call To Repentance and Peace with Justice,” characterized the Council of Bishops as “Flower children and chronic demonstrators who never really grew up and faced the real sinful world;” another IRD posting claimed “One of the strongest regiments of this godless army (of the ‘secular left’) is America’s mainstream protestant leaders...the real spirit driving the peace mongering protestant leaders is not pacifism at all. It is the hatred of President Bush and of America itself;” and the IRD has stated, “Irreconcilable differences on essentials are dividing the cultureconforming liberals...from faithful United Methodists...we recommend allowing a gracious exit for those who cannot or will not accept the essential beliefs;” and

WHEREAS Paragraph 104, section 4 of the Book of Discipline states: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to work within our diversity while exercising patience and forbearance with one another. Such patience stems neither from indifference toward the truth nor from an indulgent tolerance of error
but from an awareness that we know only in part and that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God except by the Spirit of God. We proceed with our theological task, trusting that the Spirit will grant us wisdom to continue our journey with the whole people of God (p. 84); and

WHEREAS in its 2003 session, the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church stated that the agendas of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and its subcommittee UM Action, were inconsistent with the mission, nature, and theology of the United Methodist Church by adopting a resolution stating the same;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirm the conclusions expressed in the 2003 resolution, and also concludes that the activities of the Institute on Religion and Democracy are disruptive to the ministries of our denomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference commission the Conference Board of Church and Society to assemble study materials to be used by all Desert Southwest congregations on the Institute on Religion and Democracy, to be distributed at Annual Conference 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference commission the Conference Board of Church and Society to design a letter to all United Methodists in our conference, expressing the Conference’s concerns about the Institute on Religion and Democracy, and asking them to prayerfully consider withdrawing any support they may give to the IRD and/or UM Action, and that this letter be distributed by each local congregation to its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference petition the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to include this resolution in the Book of Resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference petition the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to commission the General Board of Church and Society to create and/or distribute study materials on the Institute of Religion and Democracy for the use of our denomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and the accompanying supporting document be distributed to all Desert Southwest Conference congregations, to all other United Methodist Annual Conferences, the Council of Bishops, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Council on Ministries, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the National Council of Churches of Christ, and the World Council of Churches.

2007.75: A Resolution to Resolve the Issue of Donative Liens
2007 Journal, p. 69
Referred to Covenant Council

WHEREAS, the book of Leviticus calls for a Jubilee Year wherein slaves are set free and debts are forgiven, (Leviticus 25) and

WHEREAS, the people called United Methodists are a connectional people in symbiotic relationship—we would do well to remember the words of Rudyard Kipling regarding the “Jungle Law”. “As the vine that encircles the tree trunk, the law runs forward and back. The strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is the pack” and

WHEREAS, our local churches do not own any property, but hold it in trust for the Annual Conference secured by a trust clause in each church’s deed (BOD paragraph 2503) and

Whereas, the Desert Southwest Conference, when monies are paid out to help acquire land, build buildings or otherwise build up a local church, has made a practice of attaching donative liens in the amount of monies paid out further encumbering church property titles, and

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WHEREAS, many churches are unaware donative liens have been attached to their titles resulting in unknown liabilities often not recorded on local church books, and potential problems in obtaining loans for building or other major projects and
WHEREAS, the repayment of donative liens has happened in an inconsistent manner with some churches paying money back and others believing they do not have too.
WHEREAS, the majority of money represented by the liens has come out of congregational development (including, but not limited to, capital campaign money) with money for repayment of liens going to congregational development and
WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference is embarking on a capital campaign to raise money for congregational development,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all monies paid by local churches, or their constituents, to the Forward In His Footsteps campaign be considered as payment of the church’s donative lien(s) held by the Desert Southwest Conference up to and including retirement of the lien(s)
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the treasurer’s office of the Desert Southwest Conference contact in writing every local church with title currently encumbered by a donative lien regarding the existence and source of the lien, how much is owed, and this capital campaign pay back option.

2007.80: Recycling at DSW and District Events
2007 Journal, pp. 69-70
Referred to Covenant Council
WHEREAS this body passed a resolution at the 2004 Annual Conference to collect recyclables generated at annual conference and deliver them to the appropriate recycling facilities,
WHEREAS the resolution passed at the 2004 Conference also called for provisions to be made for recycling at official District and DSC Conference meetings and that each church be encouraged to recycle,
WHEREAS fully implementing this resolution would best be handled by a conference committee rather than a single individual,
WHEREAS recycling is an issue that falls under the domain of the Church and Society Committee,
WHEREAS the venue of this conference will be changed in 2009,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Church and Society Committee, rather than Rev. Joyce Steiner, work with the Desert Southwest Annual Conference so as to carry out the logistics of this resolution.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issue of recycling be addressed in negotiations involving selecting a new venue for the conference.
GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS

Stewardship of Time and Money of General Boards and Agencies Meetings
WHEREAS, National meetings sponsored by Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church have definite purposes; and,
WHEREAS, These National Meetings sponsored by Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church are increasing; and,
WHEREAS, Although valid, they tend to be very expensive; and,
WHEREAS, We are called to be a people of mission;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference petition the General Conference that these meetings be limited in frequency, demonstrate good stewardship, and be economically feasible.

Petition for the Establishment of the Perpetual Diaconate
WHEREAS, the Order of Deacon in the United Methodist Church is now a transitional order of ordained ministry; and
WHEREAS, deacons are expected to complete a course for the Master of Divinity degree or equivalent first professional degree in order to be continued as probationary members of the Annual Conference, and thus are expected to complete an educational achievement which is required for eligibility to ordination as an Elder of the church, and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church does not now ordain deacons whose call to ministry is primarily a call to service, as distinct from a ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order; and
WHEREAS, a projected need within the church has been identified which could be appropriately met through the appointment of permanent deacons who would forego eligibility for ordination as elder; and
WHEREAS, persons who are called to service may not require as much graduate level theological education as those who are preparing for the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order; i.e., more persons called of God to the ministries of the church might practically satisfy the educational requirements of a permanent diaconate than can otherwise complete a Master of Divinity degree; and
WHEREAS, the consecration of lay deacons or diaconal ministers has introduced unnecessary categorical distinctions between persons whose call to the representative ministry is to be affirmed through the affirmation and election of an Annual Conference,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church urge the revision of paragraphs 108-110, 414-416, and 431-435 of the Book of Discipline, creating an approved special variation in the Order of Deacon, superseding the current practice of consecrating diaconal ministers in favor of ordaining qualified persons to servant ministries as perpetual deacons (analogous to the practice restored and currently approved by the Episcopal Church in the United States), and identifying appropriate educational and other qualifications for perpetual deacons.
Petition for General Conference Quadrennial Emphasis on Ministries with Persons with Disabilities
1991 Journal, p. 40
WHEREAS, the capabilities and potential contributions of persons with disabilities need to be recognized and utilized so that they, no less than nondisabled persons, may experience the creative power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the restoring power of an accepting fellowship that recognizes them as persons of worth and value,
WHEREAS, the Church needs to encourage increased accessibility (in programs and attitudes as well as in physical facilities) in the Church and in the community.
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference petitions the 1992 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to establish "Ministries with Persons With Disabilities" as an emphasis for the 1992-96 quadrennium.

A Campus Ministry Special Program for 1993-1996 Campus Ministry: Mission at the Center
1991 Journal, pp. 40-41
WHEREAS, the Church of Jesus Christ seeks always to fulfill its mission of loving God with all its heart, soul, mind, and strength, and its neighbor as itself; and
WHEREAS, since is founding in 1784, American Methodism has carried out a vital ministry in higher education both to train its own leaders and to shape the leadership of society; and
WHEREAS, that commitment continues today through the work of campus ministries at non-United Methodist colleges, and through chaplaincies on the campuses of United Methodist related colleges; and
WHEREAS, in 1991 more than 13.2 million students and nearly 900,000 full- and part-time faculty will be on the campuses in the United States; and
WHEREAS, campus has been the historic place at which both church and society have exercised leadership, educated future leaders, and provided access to leadership for racial ethnic persons; and
WHEREAS, those leaders will be asked to make far-reaching and often irreversible decisions affecting humankind: its churches and societies, its nations and regions, its earth and air; and
WHEREAS, college years for traditional students are times of significant moral formation, and for non-traditional and older students often occur in the midst of critical personal and career change; and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church, for the sake of its mission and its own institutional vitality, seeks to strengthen its ties with young adults and with the faculty and staff who will help shape society's future; and
WHEREAS, the Church seeks to make known God's call to Christian vocation for the whole body of God's Church and for the recruitment of ordained and diaconal ministers; and
WHEREAS, through campus ministry, the Church places itself at the center where values are tested and new identities are formed, where inquiry is encouraged and research is carried out, where, in fact, the issues of the world exist in microcosm,
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the United Methodist Church recognizes the critical importance of the campus and of its mission in that area where lives are changed and world and church leaders are formed, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 1992 General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopt "Campus Ministry: Mission at the Center" as a Special Program for the 1993-1996 quadrennium, funded at $1,000,000, and that the Special Program be assigned to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for implementation.
Resolution on the National Plan on Hispanic Ministries

WHEREAS, demographic projections indicate nearly 45 million Hispanics in the United States by 2010 making Hispanics the fastest growing segment of the United States population; and
WHEREAS, this population growth represents an unique opportunity for evangelization and church growth; and
WHEREAS, the 1988 General Conference affirmed that "the ministry with Hispanics must be a concern of the whole church" and mandated that a national committee be appointed to develop and present to the 1992 General Conference a "national comprehensive plan for Hispanic ministries"; and
WHEREAS, we are all called by our God to respond in faithfulness to the challenge of ministry and with Hispanics as a way of acting out our commitment to Jesus Christ;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we as an Annual Conference do support and encourage the adoption of a plan to respond to the challenge and opportunity for ministry with Hispanics by the 1992 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Conference Commission on Communication

Add new paragraph following ¶727, renumbering the present ¶728. Deletes ¶¶726.5.b, 726.5.e, 726.10g, h & i. Amends ¶¶726.5.

¶728.1. In each Annual Conference there shall be a Commission on Communication, which shall include persons with skills in communications nominated for membership in a manner determined by the conference, in accordance with ¶707.4.

The commission, publication, multimedia, public and media relations, interpretation and promotional needs of the Annual Conference. It shall be responsible for providing resources and services to conference agencies, districts and local churches in the field of communication. The commission shall have a consultative relationship with all agencies and bodies within the conference structure. (deletes ¶726.5.b)

2.a) The commission shall include at least seven voting members. The following shall be ex-officio members of the commission in addition to the number set by the Annual Conference: (1) the conference director of communications (if employed, without vote); (2) any member of the General Commission on Communication or the General Board of Publications who resides within the bounds of the conference, with vote, unless voting membership is in conflict with another provision of the Book of Discipline, in which case his/her membership shall be without vote; (3) the presiding bishop, without vote; (4) a district superintendent, chosen by the cabinet, without vote; (5) the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, without vote; and (6) the conference council director, without vote.

b) Two or more conferences may decide to have a single Commission on Communication, in which case each Annual Conference shall be represented as stated in the preceding paragraph and each shall elect an equal number of voting members.

3. The responsibilities of the Commission on Communication, unless the Annual Conference has designated another agency to carry any of these responsibilities, shall include;
(a) To consult and cooperate with the conference Council on Finance and Administration in providing district superintendents, pastors, and appropriate officers of the local churches and charge conferences with interpretive aids or materials to assist in gaining understanding and support of the conference budget and other approved causes.
(b) To interpret and promote the programs and Benevolences of the general Church, the Jurisdictional or Central Conference, and the Annual Conference to the local churches in consultation with other general Church and conference agencies. (deletes ¶726.10.g).

(c) To develop, implement and maintain a comprehensive internal communication network among clergy and laity within the Annual Conference, districts, and local churches. (deletes ¶726.10.h).

(d) To guide radio, television and telecommunications ministries in the Annual Conference.

(e) To assist other agencies of the Annual Conference, districts, and local congregations in the use of computers and computer networks for communication purposes.

(f) To provide oversight for all periodicals (print and electronic) of the Annual Conference.

(g) To facilitate training opportunities in communication for Annual Conference agencies, districts, and local churches.

(h) To provide oversight of conference multimedia resource collections shared among Annual Conference agencies, districts, and local churches.

(i) To provide a liaison between the Annual Conference and the United Methodist Publishing House. (deletes ¶726.5.e)

(k) To raise public awareness within the geographical region of the Annual Conference of the programs and policies of The United Methodist Church; to be the primary source of information services on behalf of the Annual Conference to the general public; and to perform public and media relations functions for the conference. (deletes ¶726.10.i)

(l) To recommend the effective use of emerging communication technologies and methods.

(m) To perform such other communication services as the Annual Conference may assign.

4. An executive officer, to be known as the director of communications, shall be designated, by one or more annual conferences to assist the commission in carrying out its responsibilities.

General Commission on Prayer Ministry

1995 Journal, p. 38

WHEREAS, Paul encouraged us to "pray without ceasing”. 1 Thess. 5: 17 NRSV, and WHEREAS, it was customary for Jesus to pray, and WHEREAS, the Church is experiencing a spiritual awakening, and WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church should take a leading position in spiritual advocacy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference recommend to the United Methodist General Conference that each church be encouraged to:

1) Create a foundation of prayer from which all ministries of their church proceeds;

2) Motivate members of their congregation to become more active in prayer, encourage members of their congregations to expand their exposure to differing forms prayer;

3) Develop educational opportunities for members of their congregation, to train and disciple members of their congregation to become more intentional and effective in their prayer life,

4) Create a Prayer Room (in the same building as the sanctuary, if possible) from unused, or underutilized, space,

5) Equip members and visitors with prayer resources and materials, and

6) To coordinate existing prayer ministries (such as prayer chain).
United Methodist Women to have a Liaison with Campus Ministries
WHEREAS: an important and historic link existed between the United Methodist Women and campus ministries prior to 1968, and
WHEREAS: this link enhanced the recruitment of students into campus ministry programs throughout the nation, and
WHEREAS: campus ministry programs are the best opportunity on any campus to reach, teach and lead students on their faith journey, and
WHEREAS: the number of now active clergy retiring by the year 2000 greatly outnumbers present college students training for full-time Christian vocations,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, with the support of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Women and the Desert Southwest Conference Council of Ministries, petition the 1996 General Conference to request that each local United Methodist Women's unit to have an officer responsible for student liaison communicating to campus ministers and chaplains the names of young people attending various colleges and universities.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this officer work in cooperation with the local church work area in Higher Education and Campus Ministry, utilizing the resources of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and ministry.

Retention of General Commission on Status and Role of Women
1995 Journal, p. 39
WHEREAS, a subject to possibly be raised at General Conference is the cutting of the Commission on the Status and Role of women from the programs of the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, women continue to be overlooked and/or discriminated against in the conduct of relationships and business within the United Methodist Church and the Christian church as a whole; and
WHEREAS, women are only occasionally or sporadically beginning to participate equally in regard to having full voice and leadership in our world; and
WHEREAS, women need a group to advocate with them for their rights and concerns; and
WHEREAS, the progress we have made must not let us neglect the ongoing daily struggles for women and the children for whom they care, in our midst and throughout the world;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference strongly affirm the retention and support of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the whole ministry of the United Methodist Church. By keeping the needs of, and injustices in, our committees present in prayer and service; by sharing of our gifts and presence in the lives of those affected, we can continue Christ's ministry in our world.

General Board of Discipleship to Change the Name of the Lay Speaker Program
1999 Journal, p. 50
WHEREAS, the Lay Speaker program implies only “filling the pulpit” to many laity, and
WHEREAS, a large number of laity becomes frustrated with not being utilized in that capacity after receiving the training, and
WHEREAS, the Lay Speaker program actually teaches many leadership roles for the laity in the Basic Lay Speaker class: caring, teaching, leading, visiting, worshiping, praying and preaching, and
WHEREAS, the Lay Speaker program expands each of the leadership roles in the Advanced Lay Speaker classes, and
WHEREAS, the title of the current program is misunderstood by many of the laity and clergy.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference petition the General Conference to change the name of the Lay Speaker program to be the Lay Ministry Leadership Program.

United Methodist Women to have a Liaison with Campus Ministries
1999 Journal, pp. 50-51
WHEREAS, an important and historic link existed between the organic predecessors to the United Methodist Women and campus ministries prior to 1968, and
WHEREAS, this link enhanced the recruitment of students into campus ministry programs throughout the nation, and
WHEREAS, campus ministry programs are the best opportunity on any campus to reach, teach and lead students on their faith journey.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, with the support of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Women and the Desert Southwest Conference Council on Ministries, petition the General Conference to request that each local United Methodist Women’s unit have an officer responsible for student liaison, communicating to campus ministers and chaplains the names of young people attending various colleges and universities, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this officer work in cooperation with the local church work area in Higher Education and Campus Ministry, utilizing the resources of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

On Agreeing to Disagree
1999 Journal, p. 51
WHEREAS, the preface to the Social Principles describes the contents as “instructive and persuasive” calling us “to a prayerful, studied dialogue,” and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is being torn apart over a multiplicity of social, ethical and personal issues, many of which are addressed in the Social Principles, and
WHEREAS, those who seek to love and serve God hold honest difference of opinion about these and many other issues; and
WHEREAS, we are urged to learn to live together in the oneness of Christ...a oneness that reaches beyond opinions and attitudes.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church petition the General Conference as follows:
That the Social Principles in their entirety be understood and interpreted on an ongoing basis under the traditional and stated intention of being “instructive and persuasive,” to the end of accepting the integrity of individual convictions and affirming the historic Wesleyan principle: “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all others, charity.”
Revision to the 2000 *Book of Discipline*

2001 Journal, p. 54

Be it Proposed that this Annual Conference recommend the revoking of the age based mandatory retirement at age 70 as found in the 2000 *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, ¶536.1.

WHEREAS: A majority of our society, its businesses and agencies have recognized that to require retirement at any age is a form of age discrimination.
WHEREAS: Our denomination is facing a shortage of qualified servants for the itinerant ministry.
WHEREAS: The cost for benefits for the burgeoning numbers of retired members of our annual conferences are placing an ever increasing financial burden on our conferences due to increased costs of health benefits.
WHEREAS: Our Biblical roots show that God uses people of all ages to lead others in ministry and worship. Age alone cannot be used to determine ones effectiveness in ministry.
WHEREAS: Mandatory retirement based on age was repealed for the Judicial Council members at the 2000 General Conference. If it has been repealed for one small group of our denomination it should apply to all members in the denomination.
WHEREAS: Presently there are a large number of second and third career people entering the ministry late in life. The present mandatory age based retirement may prohibit them from completing sufficient (20) years to qualify for full retirement.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Paragraph 356.1 “Mandatory Retirement” Of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church should be removed in its entirety. The other provisions concerning retirement to remain unaffected.

Removing this barrier will allow effective and energetic mature pastors to continue in ministry as long as they wish and their ministry is acceptable according to the *Book of Discipline* standards and the standards established by the Annual Conference. If members are allowed to remain in full connection longer it will reduce the time period that they are receiving benefits as a retired member.

Reducing the time period that members are retired will lessen the financial burden for the benefits they receive. Our life span is continuing to lengthen and people retiring in their sixties can spend 30+ years on retired status, longer than some second and third career members will serve actively. Many Retired members continue to serve after their retirement and do fulfill special needs in the pastoral role and this should continue as it has in the past as we continue to live longer.

There appears to be no reason that there is less demand on those that serve on the Judicial Council that should allow them the privilege of not being bound by the age barrier.

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General Conference Petition on Denominational Health Care

2003 Journal, pp. 56-57

Submitted by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the Covenant Council

WHEREAS, the preface of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church ("Social Principles") states, "The Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions. They are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. The Social Principles are a call to all members of The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice;"

WHEREAS, paragraph 162.E, "Rights of the Aging" of the Social Principles states, "We support social policies that integrate the aging into the life of the total community, including sufficient incomes ...
and adequate medical care .... Further, we urge increased consideration for adequate pension systems by employers, with provisions for the surviving spouse;"
WHEREAS, paragraph 162.T, "Right to Health Care" of the Social Principles states, "Health care is a basic right;"
WHEREAS, paragraph 163.E, "Poverty" of the Social Principles states, "In order to provide basic needs such as ... health care, ways must be found to share more equitable the resources of the world .... To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as ... adequate medical and hospital care, and humanization and radical revisions of welfare programs;"
WHEREAS, Resolution #97, "Health Care" states, "the United Methodist Church support all movement toward the provision of quality health care regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, and economic status;"
WHEREAS, each of the eight principles in Resolution #103, "Universal Access to Health Care" begins with the words, "We seek a national health-care plan;"
WHEREAS, Resolution #144, "Aging in the United States - The Church's Response calls for: 1) society to provide "a standard of basic survival support systems should be accepted and established in our society and made available to all persons. These systems should include health care" and universal comprehensive health insurance program; and 2) The Church at all levels to "establish a properly funded pension system with an adequate minimum standard for all clergy and church-employed lay persons and their spouse;"
WHEREAS, Resolution #206, "Living Wage Model" challenges all levels of the church to "provide for adequate health coverage for employees and their dependents;"
WHEREAS, the health care industry in the United States is experiencing extreme cost increases, which places clergy and lay employees at risk of losing adequate health care coverage at an affordable level;
WHEREAS, the loss of health care coverage can result in catastrophic financial results for active and retired clergy and lay employees;
WHEREAS, an independent actuarial study, sponsored by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church ("General Board"), indicated that a denominational health care plan could reduce costs by creating a greater pool to spread risk and increase purchasing power;
WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 1501 a, the General Board is responsible for the general supervision and administration of the support, relief, and assistance and pensioning of clergy, lay workers, and their families, of The United Methodist Church;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Annual Conference calls on General Conference to establish a denominational health program by January 1, 2007 to be administered by the General Board providing a benefit to all active and retired clergy with design options at the conference level.

_Telling the Truth Before God and One Another_
2003 Journal, p. 59

For more than thirty years United Methodists have found themselves deeply divided around the issue of homosexuality. We cannot continue to batter each other. We believe the time has come to focus on healing our church and moving forward together. We further believe that a first step toward such healing requires us to honestly name where we are.
Therefore we, of Desert Southwest Annual Conference, propose to General Conference 2004 that the following changes be made to _The Book of Discipline_, ¶161, G:

**Delete**, "Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all."
Add in its place, "Differences of opinion among faithful Christians regarding sexual orientation continue to deeply divide the church. We stand before God admitting that we have thus far been unable to reach common ground. As we continue to discern God's will together, we are united in declaring our understanding that God's grace is available to all."

In Support of Africa University
2003 Journal, pp. 59-60

WHEREAS, the Africa University initiative formally began by the inspiring address delivered by Bishop Emily de Carvalho of Angola at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church in October, 1984; and
WHEREAS, Bishop de Carvalho was joined by Bishop Arthur Kuhlal of Liberia, Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, then President of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Bishop Felton E. May, then President of the General Council on Ministries, and other members in discussing the educational needs of Africa and ways the denomination might respond to this challenge; and
WHEREAS, the African Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church asked the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries to assist them in developing significant post-secondary institutions of learning for the churches of Africa; and
WHEREAS, in St. Louis, Missouri, the 1988 General Conference of The United Methodist Church overwhelmingly approved the establishment of a university on the continent of Africa to be built in Zimbabwe and authorized an apportionment of $10 million over a four year period and an additional $10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts; and
WHEREAS, the official ground breaking for the university occurred on site in Old Mutare in 1991, and Africa University opened 1992 with two faculties and forty students representing six nations on the African continent; and
WHEREAS, Africa University celebrated its tenth anniversary November 13-17, 2002, during which celebrations the Council of Presidents of the denomination's eleven historically Black colleges and universities met on the University's campus for the first time; the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools met on the University's campus for the first time; Ms. Grava Simbine Machel, wife of President Nelson Mandela, delivered the keynote anniversary address and was bestowed an honorary Doctor of Law degree; the Faculty of Theology building built by the South Carolina Annual Conference was dedicated, and named in honor of its resident bishop, Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey; two dormitories built by the South Indiana Annual Conference (Bishop Woodie W. White, resident bishop) were dedicated and one named in honor of Vice-Chancellor Rukudzo Murapa and his wife Helen, and the second named in honor of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, James H. Salley; and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Program was recognized and commended for its ministry in building ten staff houses in ten years; and
WHEREAS, Africa University's enrollment reached a significant milestone in 2002 with its student population reaching 1,123 representing 22 African nations; and
WHEREAS, the number of faculties has grown from two in 1992 to five in 2002 with the sixth faculty scheduled to open in the fall of 2003; and
WHEREAS, in February 2003 Africa University launched its Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance with an initial enrollment of 15 students, each of whom will earn a masters degree in Peace and Governance (MPG); and
WHEREAS, 880 Africa University alumni have been deployed across the African continent in fulfillment of the University's mission to train new leaders for the nations of Africa---new leaders like Walter
Manyangawirwa, who was in the first graduating class at Africa University and who is now a leader in the field study of fungi, viruses, bacteria and other plant diseases; and
WHEREAS, Africa University is the only private institution of higher learning on the African continent that may fly the international flag of the United Nations; and
WHEREAS, Africa University has been called "... one of the great success stories of Christian missions in the world today" by Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International; and
WHEREAS, the General Council on Ministries at its fall meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 28, 2002 unanimously adopted a resolution expressing "its sincere congratulations and warm best wishes to Africa University on the occasion of its Tenth Anniversary," and avowing to "continue to stand in solidarity with Africa University and the United Methodist churches of Africa in educating for the right, speaking out against the wrong, and faithfully responding to the call of God to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel"; and
WHEREAS, the support and enthusiasm of United Methodists world-wide for Africa University are demonstrated in the apportionments remitted annually, the second-mile givings, and contributions from churches and individuals for the Africa University Endowment Fund; and
WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference calls upon each local church in the annual conference to pay the full Africa University apportioned line item and give generously to the Africa University Endowment Fund; now therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference affirms that Africa University is a dynamic and important mission project of The United Methodist Church; affirms the leadership of all those involved in the continuing development and day-to-day operations of the university; commends the Africa University Board of Directors and advisory Development Committee for their persistence, diligence, and visionary leadership in overcoming the obstacles and barriers to fulfilling the dream.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference calls upon the 2004 General Conference to make Africa University a priority and to allocate an apportionment of $10 million over a four year period and an additional $10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts to continue development, construction, and endowment of Africa University as outlined in the planning process determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Africa University Board of Directors.

Revision to the 2000 Book of Discipline

2003 Journal, pp. 60-61

Be it Proposed that this Annual Conference support the recommended legislation submitted by the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries which relax the church's rules on mandatory retirement for lay employees and clergy @ age 70 as found in the 2000 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶536.1.

WHEREAS: A majority of our society, its businesses and agencies have recognized that to require retirement at any age is a form of age discrimination.
WHEREAS: Our denomination is facing a shortage of qualified servants for the itinerant ministry.
WHEREAS: The cost for benefits for the burgeoning numbers of retired members of our annual conferences are placing an ever increasing financial burden on our conferences due to increased costs of health benefits.
WHEREAS: Our Biblical roots show that God uses people of all ages to lead others in ministry and worship. Age alone cannot be used to determine ones effectiveness in ministry.
WHEREAS: Mandatory retirement based on age was repealed for the Judicial Council members at the 2000 General Conference. If it has been repealed for one small group of our denomination it should apply to all members in the denomination.

WHEREAS: Presently there are a large number of second and third career people entering the ministry late in life. The present mandatory age based retirement may prohibit them from completing sufficient (20) years to qualify for full retirement.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Paragraph 356.1 “Mandatory Retirement” Of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church should be revised in its entirety in accord with the recommendations of the Committee on Older Adult Ministries.

Rational: Removing this barrier will allow effective and energetic mature pastors to continue in ministry as long as they wish and their ministry is acceptable according to the Book of Discipline standards and the standards established by the Annual Conference. If members are allowed to remain in full connection longer it will reduce the time period that they are receiving benefits as a retired member. Reducing the time period that members are retired will lessen the financial burden for the benefits they receive. Our life span is continuing to lengthen and people retiring in their sixties can spend 30+ years on retired status, longer than some second and third career members will serve actively. Many Retired members continue to serve after their retirement and do fulfill special needs in the pastoral role and this should continue as it has in the past as we continue to live longer.

There appears to be no reason that there is less demand on those that serve on the Judicial Council that should allow them the privilege of not being bound by the age barrier.

The action involves amending or changing paragraphs 714.3; 356.1; 430.1 and 409.1 in the 2000 Book of Discipline.

Resolution Supporting General Church Boards and Agencies, and Opposing the Institute on Religion and Democracy

WHEREAS the Gospel of Jesus Christ implores God’s people to love one another, our neighbors, and our enemies, and paragraph 104, section 4 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline states:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to work within our diversity while exercising patience and forbearance with one another. Such patience stems neither from indifference toward the truth nor from an indulgent tolerance of error but from an awareness that we know only in part and that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God except by the Spirit of God. We proceed with our theological task, trusting that the Spirit will grant us wisdom to continue our journey with the whole people of God; and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church, desiring to be a faithful witness for Christ in the society and world in which we live, and to be in connection with the larger family of Christ, created the General Board of Church and Society, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Council on Ministries, the General Board of Global Ministries, including its Women's Division, became an active participant in the National Council of Churches, and structured its General Conference to be a deliberative and legislative body in which all of its constituencies are represented, and

WHEREAS the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), a conservative organization which, in a document titled Reforming America’s Churches Project 2001-2004, characterized mainline denominations, including the United Methodist Church, as "The bulwark of the religious left," those who differ from the IRD's views as "Radical religious voices," and
WHEREAS in sample resolutions for the 2000 General Conference, in *Reforming America's Churches*, and in *UM Action Briefing*, a publication of *United Methodist Action*, an IRD committee focusing on the United Methodist Church, the IRD has:

- Called for the abolition of the Board of Church and Society, which, the IRD stated, "constantly embarrasses and divides our church";
- Stated that:
  "Our main target will be the Washington lobby office (of the United Methodist Church), which is the largest church lobby in the nation's capitol. At the 2000 General Conference, we persuaded 30 percent of the delegates to vote for its elimination. We believe we have a chance of getting 51 percent in 2004. We will also target the United Methodist missions board, our largest church agency with over $400 million in assets and an annual budget of over $150 million. We want to shift this agency away from left-wing political action";
- Called for the abolition of the General Council on Ministries;
- Called for the abolition of General Commission on the Status and Role of Women;
- Called for the withdrawal of the United Methodist Church from the National Council of Churches, and identified "The final dismantling of the National Council of Churches" as "A major priority";
- Characterized the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries as the "United Methodist agency ... (that) is most harmfully undermining the Christian faith and the beliefs of the United Methodist Church," called for "Reform" of the Women's Division, and described the financial support of the Children's Defense Fund, Church Women United, and the Nation Council of Churches, by the Women's Division as "Fund(ing) radical political groups," and called for "United Methodist Women, individually and in their local units, to avoid undesignated giving to the Women's division," and

WHEREAS in *Reforming America's Churches*, the IRD:

- Stated that "for nearly the last 20 years, the IRD has worked to discredit and diminish the religious left's influence;"
- Stated that it is "Training church members in counter arguments undercutting the left's influence";
- Described their "Program for influencing the governing church conventions of three denominations, (which) will cost over $3.6 million (over) the next four years," with goal of "Real influence for conservatives within the permanent governing structures" of these three and other denominations;
- Stated that it "Is giving special attention to reform of the United Methodist Church, America's third largest religious body, and the largest denomination under religious left control";
- Stated that the IRD planned to "Identify electable candidates for national church conventions ... Help train candidates to be effective at church conventions ... ( and) Assist conservatives who serve on the boards of key church agencies so as to have direct influence over the permanent staff." The IRD also stated that "After delegates are elected in 2003 by their respective annual conferences, we will use the following year to train sympathetic delegates ... and educate them in the issues on which we focus ... we will stress the importance of changing the staff and leadership of permanent church agencies." and

WHEREAS At the 2000 General Conference, the IRD supported a restructuring of general conference representation that reduced representation from the Western Jurisdiction by 27 delegates. The IRD characterized the Conference as "The most productive General Conference in 40 years", in part because delegates 'Voted to reapportion the composition of future general conferences so that declining (and liberal) regions of the church such as the northeast and West Coast will receive fewer
delegates. Growing (and more conservative) regions such as the southeast and overseas churches will receive more delegates. This will help insure that conservative trends ... will continue at future general conferences."

WHEREAS at the 2002 Annual Conference, the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist church, affirmed a resolution by majority vote stating the belief that the agendas of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and its subcommittee United Methodist Action, as defined in the Reforming America's Churches document, are inconsistent with the mission, nature, and theology of the United Methodist Church.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2003 Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference send a letter to the 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church:

- Petitioning for the continuation of the General Board of Church and Society and the United Methodist Church's Washington D.C. offices, the General Board of Global Ministries and the Women's Division, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Council on Ministries, for the continued participation of the United Methodist Church in the National Council of Churches, and for the continued representation of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference at General Conference by at least the current number of Delegates and Alternates.
- Expressing our belief that the agendas of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and its subcommittee United Methodist Action, as defined in the Reforming America's Churches document, are inconsistent with the mission, nature, and theology of the United Methodist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution and its supporting document be distributed to all members of Desert Southwest Conference congregations, to all other United Methodist Annual Conferences, the Council of Bishops, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, the National Council of Churches of Christ, and the World Council of Churches.

[Editor's Note: See page 63 of the 2002 Journal for supporting documentation.]

**Boards and Agencies Meeting Times**

*2007 Journal, p. 60*

Add new resolution to the *Book of Resolutions* that reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church recognizes the leadership of young people within the church; and

WHEREAS, young people of The United Methodist Church are called by God to serve in leadership roles at the local, district, and conference levels; and

WHEREAS, a church-wide effort in recruiting and retaining young people’s participation is growing; and

WHEREAS, the time constraints of young people through school, career, and family are great, making accessibility to leadership roles difficult;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in choosing dates and times for all meetings of United Methodist Church boards and agencies, utmost importance is given to the consideration of times, dates, and places between all conferences that will make young people’s participation as great as possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in choosing dates and times for district, annual/central and general conference meetings that utmost importance is given to the consideration of allowing as many youth and young adult delegates to actively participate as is possible.
Delete ¶806.9

¶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.

**Rationale:** ¶806.9 limits our ability to live out our call to “Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.” It further restricts our ability to minister to all people and make disciples of Jesus Christ as we are called to do by the great commission in Matthew 28: 19-20.

Delete ¶304.3

**Equality in Ordination**

Book of Discipline ¶304.3

2007 Journal, pp. 60-61

**Rationale:** We believe that there are people being called by God into ordained ministry within The United Methodist Church who are currently being denied access to ordination. Our church would be enriched by their God-given gifts and graces.

Delete ¶215

**Defining Membership**

Book of Discipline ¶215

2007 Journal, p. 62

As United Methodists, we believe in maintaining open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We can better exemplify this belief we have by insuring that no person will be denied membership in the UMC because of their differences.

Amend first sentence: “The membership of a local United Methodist church shall include those who have been baptized and those who have professed their faith regardless of age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexual orientation.”

¶ 215. **Definition of Membership**—The membership of a local United Methodist church shall include those all people who have been baptized and those all people who have professed their faith. regardless of age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexual orientation.

1. The baptized membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized people who have received Christian baptism in the local congregation or elsewhere, or whose membership has been transferred to the local United Methodist church subsequent to baptism in some other congregation.
2. The professing membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized people who have come into membership by profession of faith through appropriate services of the baptismal covenant in the ritual or by transfer from other churches.
3. For statistical purposes, church membership is equated to the number of people listed on the roll of professing members regardless of age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexual orientation.
4. A baptized or professing member of any local United Methodist church is a member of the denomination global United Methodist connection and a member of the catholic (universal) church universal.
4. All persons who are baptized or professing members of any local united Methodist Church are members of the Global United Methodist Church, and are members of the “church universal”.

Note: Resolution passed as amended (amended additions are bolded and underlined; and/or removals are bolded and strike through).

Petition Concerning the George W. Bush Presidential Center
2011 Journal, p. 82
Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society
Adopted by the Conference with amendments

WHEREAS, the grace of God in Christ is offered to all people equally, as shown in the words of 1st Corinthians 12:13: “For in the one spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks...and we were all made to drink of the one Spirit”; and

WHEREAS, our Wesleyan Methodist heritage emphasizes the universality of God’s love, as espoused in the doctrine of Prevenient Grace (Book of Discipline, p. 46) and

WHEREAS, United Methodists have a wide spectrum political opinions, and belong to a variety of political parties and organizations, consistent with living out their convictions in faithful social witness. The United Methodist Church and its institutions show no partiality in the political world. It is inappropriate for any United Methodist member, leader, clergy, congregation, or body to declare that a political leader, party, or position universally represents the Christian faith or the United Methodist Church. “Churches should not assume that any particular social pattern, political order, or economic ideology represents a complete embodiment of the Christian ethic” (Book of Resolutions, p. 656). The provision of land and resources for the use of the George W. Bush Policy Center on Southern Methodist University (SMU) property, which is owned by the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, constitutes favoring one set of political positions and policies over others; and

WHEREAS, Part of the policy agenda of the Policy Institute, as defined by members of the Library Selection Committee, “will be to further the domestic and international goals of the Bush Administration.” SMU President R. Gerald Turner stated that the Institute has or will, “Hire independently its fellows to address its areas of focus...This approach would fall outside of University practices and standards...” The Policy Institute Board of Advisors currently includes Condoleezza Rice, Karl Rove, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush; and

WHEREAS, All property owned by The United Methodist Church, not to be used for worship or a parsonage, “Shall be held, kept, maintained, and disposed of for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and subject to the usages and the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.” (Book of Discipline, paragraph 2503.4); and

WHEREAS, The location of the George W. Bush Policy Institute on the SMU Campus is inconsistent with the goals and policies of The United Methodist Church, as defined in the 2008 editions of The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions, and with SMU’s hiring and employment policies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church petition the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to rescind permission for the George W. Bush Policy Institute to be located on the SMU Campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church petition the General Conference of the United Methodist Church to require that the Bush Policy Institute be responsible for all costs related to its relocation, and return any resources that SMU or The United Methodist Church has provided to it; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Desert Southwest Conference petition The General Conference of The United Methodist Church to specify that no future political policy centers be located on the grounds of United Methodist institutions.

Disability Awareness Annual Conference Theme

2011 Journal, p. 83

New Resolution, given to General Conference delegates without recommendation.
WHEREAS, scripture teaches us the importance Jesus placed on ministering to and with people with disabilities; and
WHEREAS, at least one in five persons worldwide has a disability, and the number is rapidly increasing due to aging, war and natural disasters; and
WHEREAS, the 2008 Book of Resolutions, No. 3304, states, in part that church leaders are to “Lead the local churches in attitudinal change studies, to the end that the people called United Methodist are sensitized to the gifts, needs, and interests of people with disabilities, including their families;” and
WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has promoted itself as a Church of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors;” and
WHEREAS, Local Churches and Districts look to their Conference for guidance.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each Conference shall designate that at least one Annual Conference session during the 2013-2016 quadrennium will have a theme centered on Disability Awareness to set an example for each District and Local Church. Resources and guidance are available from the Committee on Disability Ministries (currently the United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries – see separate petition for name change) and UMCOR Health/Health and Welfare Ministries.

Establish the Committee on Disability Ministries

2008 Book of Discipline ¶1327

2011 Journal, p. 84

Given to General Conference delegates without recommendation.
The 2012 General Conference directs the following:
¶1327.3 (5) is amended by adding a new sentence:
(5) To provide programs for annual conferences, districts, and local churches that encourage awareness of the gifts and needs of persons with disabilities and to promote the leadership and employment throughout the connectional system of persons with disabilities. UMCOR Health (formerly Health and Welfare Ministries) shall establish, maintain, and provide financial and personnel support for a United Methodist Committee on Disability Ministries to provide advocacy, education and empowerment to lead the United Methodist Church in creating a culture where people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership and ministry.
Current funding from the General Board of Global Ministries for the expanded work of the newly established permanent committee will be supplemented by additional funding from a proposed change in Disability Awareness Sunday from an Approved Sunday for Annual Conference Observance to a Churchwide Special Sunday With Offerings (see separate petition).

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

Disability Awareness Sunday as Special Sunday with Offering

2008 Book of Discipline ¶¶ 263, 265, 823 (related)
2011 Journal, pp. 85-86

Given to General Conference delegates without recommendation

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

¶ 265.4 of the 2008 Discipline is deleted.

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

The opening sentence of ¶ 263 is amended:

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

263.7 is added:

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

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

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

¶ 823 is amended (as related to General Church Budget Implications):

Add:

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

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

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

Amend: ¶ 823.7 to ¶ 823.8
Amend: ¶ 823.8 to ¶ 823.9

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

The disability rights movement has grown considerably since its early days as WWII veterans returned home with physical and psychological disabilities, to the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by the United States in 1990, to today’s inclusion of people with a variety of disabilities in societal roles which had earlier been denied them. Despite the “Call to Inclusiveness” in The Ministry of All Christians (¶139) and the “Rights of Persons with Disabilities” in our Social Principles (¶ 162.1) the Church struggles with providing inclusive and accessible programming, camping and retreat centers, seminary training, church facilities, and other ministries.

Changes Regarding “Incapacity Leave”
2008 Book of Discipline ¶¶ 357, 652 (related)
2011 Journal, pp. 87-89

Given to General Conference delegates without recommendation.

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

¶ 357 of the 2008 Discipline is amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

¶ 652 of the 2008 Discipline is amended as follows:

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

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

a. To study the problems of incapacity issues related to clergy medical leave in the annual conference.

b. To provide for a continuing personal ministry to any disabled clergy on medical leave of the conference and to aid them in maintaining fellowship with the members of the conference.

c. To provide advice and support to and, where appropriate advocacy for, clergy on incapacity medical leave in (i) applying for and securing disability benefits from the Comprehensive Protection Plan and government programs, (ii) exploring possible sources of interim financial assistance before disability benefits can be obtained, and (iii) establishing rehabilitation and return-to-service programs, and (iv) assessing the need for and providing reasonable accommodations.

d. To make recommendations to the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pensions, and the cabinet on matters related to incapacity clergy medical leave, including steps for its prevention of the need for medical leave; incapacity the process of granting medical leave, benefits, grants or other assistance, and programs of rehabilitation.

e. To cooperate with and give assistance to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in its administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the Comprehensive Protection Plan and other benefit plans for clergy on incapacity medical leave, and to the extent applicable assist with the disability benefits and other benefits provided under those plans.
All references to “joint committee on incapacity” in the *Discipline* are changed to “joint committee on clergy medical leave.”

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

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

**Removal of discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline**

*Book of Discipline* ¶161 (F) Human Sexuality

2011 Journal, p. 90

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

**WHEREAS**, Colossians 3:11

*In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!*

**WHEREAS**, The Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, We believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and

**WHEREAS**, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and

**WHEREAS**, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* has discriminating sections; and

**WHEREAS**, We believe these sections need to be changed;

**THEREFORE**, We submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶161 (F) of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

**AMEND**: ¶161 (F) by deleting the word heterosexual:

We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

**Rationale:** Our church affirms the sanctity of the marriage covenant. Commitment as an essential for the stability of all relationships, whether in the form of marriage or civil unions, should be our standard.
Heterosexual and homosexual couples in committed relationships can by God’s grace meet these characteristics of faithful marriage.

### Removal of discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*

*Book of Discipline* ¶161 (F) Human Sexuality

2011 Journal, p. 91

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11
*In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!*

WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, We believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* has discriminating sections; and

WHEREAS, We believe these sections need to be changed;

THEREFORE, We submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶161 (F) of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

**AMEND:** ¶161 (F) by deleting the sentence as indicated in ¶161 (F) Human Sexuality

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry 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 others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. 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.

**Rationale:** The dignity of every human being resides in the infinite love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. With Wesley we understand that God’s prevenient grace is offered universally to all of humanity. All persons should be welcomed as participants in our church.

### Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*

*Book of Discipline* ¶304.3 Qualifications for Ordination

2011 Journal, p. 92

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference with amendments

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11
*In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!*
WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, We believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and
WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and
WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has discriminating sections; and
WHEREAS, We believe these sections need to be changed;

THEREFORE: We submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will petition the 2012 General Conference to delete ¶304.3 of The Book of Discipline as follows:

AMEND: ¶304.3 by deleting the sentence as indicated: ¶304 3. Qualifications for Ordination
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.

Rationale: The Constitution, Doctrinal Standards, and Social Principles of The United Methodist Church protect all people from discrimination and unequal treatment. An absolute proscription of homosexual practice of all kinds in all relationships cannot be justified Biblically.

Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline

Book of Discipline ¶313 Discontinuance and Reinstatement of Certified Candidates
2011 Journal, p. 93
Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11
In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, We believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and
WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and
WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has discriminating sections; and
WHEREAS, We believe these sections need to be changed;

THEREFORE: We submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶313 of The Book of Discipline as follows:

AMEND: ¶313 by deleting the sentence in the footnotes as indicated: ¶313 Discontinuance and Reinstatement of Certified Candidates
1. Discontinuance of a Certified Candidate—Certified candidates may be discontinued on their own request, upon severing their relationship with The United Methodist Church, or upon action to discontinue by the district committee on ordained ministry. The district committee on ordained
ministry shall file with the conference Board of Ordained Ministry a permanent record of the circumstances relating to the discontinuance of the certified candidate.

The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the Discipline regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.

Rationale: The Constitution, Doctrinal Standards, and Social Principles of The United Methodist Church protect all people from discrimination and unequal treatment. Homosexual orientation, taken alone, is not reason for denying the certification of a candidate by the Board of ordained ministry.

Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline

Book of Discipline ¶316 Responsibilities and Duties of Those Licensed for Pastoral Ministry

2011 Journal, p. 94

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11
In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free: but Christ is all and in all!

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has discriminating sections; and

WHEREAS, we believe these sections need to be changed;

THEREFORE, we submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶316 4. of The Book of Discipline as follows:

AMEND: ¶316. 4 by deleting the sentence in the footnotes as indicated: ¶316 Responsibilities and Duties of Those Licensed for Pastoral Ministry

4. A local pastor shall be under the supervision of a district superintendent and shall be assigned a clergy mentor while in the Course of Study or in seminary (¶ 349).

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that “we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” Furthermore, the Principles state that “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. 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.” Also, “we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single.”
Rationale: We do, indeed, affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love and shared fidelity. We declare forthrightly that these characteristics not only can be met but are met in faithful homosexual marriages or commitments.

Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline

Book of Discipline ¶341.6 Unauthorized Conduct
2011 Journal, p. 95

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11
In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!
WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, we believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and
WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and
WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has discriminating sections; and
WHEREAS, we believe these sections need to be changed;
THEREFORE, we submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶341 of The Book of Discipline as follows:
AMEND: ¶341.6 by deleting the sentence as indicated: ¶341.6 Unauthorized Conduct
6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

Rationale: Faithful, monogamous, homosexual marriage or commitments, expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity, are characteristics of holy living. Ceremonies that celebrate the weddings of committed couples ought to be conducted by our ministers and in our churches.

Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline

Book of Discipline ¶613 Responsibilities (Annual Conference)
2011 Journal, p. 96

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11
In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!
WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, we believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and
WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and
WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has discriminating sections; and
WHEREAS, we believe these sections need to be changed;
THEREFORE, we submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶1316.4 of The Book of Discipline as follows:

**AMEND:** ¶613 by deleting the paragraph as indicated:

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20. 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 or violate the expressed commitment of the UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (¶ 161.F). 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 events where the Church’s official position is fairly and equally represented.
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Rationale: The Constitution of The United Methodist Church acknowledges the sacred worth of everyone. All are eligible to participate fully in the local church. This restriction of spending money ignores that fact. Each Annual Conference can monitor its budget.

**Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline**

*Book of Discipline* ¶806.9 Fiscal Responsibilities

2011 Journal, p. 97

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11

*In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!*  

WHEREAS, the Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has discriminating sections; and

WHEREAS, we believe these sections need to be changed;

THEREFORE, we submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to the 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶806.9 of The Book of Discipline as follows:

**AMEND:** ¶806.9 by deleting the paragraph as indicated:

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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 or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (¶ 161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. It shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.
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**Rationale:** The Constitution of The United Methodist Church acknowledges the sacred worth of everyone. All are eligible to participate fully in the local church. This restriction of spending money ignores that fact. Our General Agencies can spend their funds as they see best.

**Removal of all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline**

*Book of Discipline ¶2702 Chargeable Offenses*

2011 Journal, p.98

Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society; Adopted by the Conference

WHEREAS, Colossians 3:11

_In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!_

WHEREAS, The Desert Southwest Conference is on record as welcoming all persons into the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all churches should be uniformly welcoming; and

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* states in ¶4 of the Constitution “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.” and

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* has discriminating sections; and

WHEREAS, we believe these sections need to be changed;

THEREFORE, we submit these resolutions to be sent as petitions to he 2012 General Conference from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Secretary of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will petition the 2010 General Conference to amend ¶2702 of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

**AMEND:** ¶2702 by deleting the words and sections as indicated: and reletter: ¶2702 Chargeable Offenses

1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; (b) 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; (c) crime; (d) failure to perform the work of the ministry; (e) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (f) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (g) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor; (h) child abuse; (i) sexual abuse; (j) sexual misconduct or (k) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; or (l) racial or gender discrimination.

**Rationale:** We have focused on sexual activity rather than committed relationships. Ceremonies that celebrate the joining of committed couples ought to be conducted by our ministers and in our churches, subject to the discernment and counseling appropriate to any marriage.
Divest From Caterpillar UN Guiding Principles and Supple of Weapons
To General Board of Church and Society
2015 Journal, vol. 2, pp. 41-43
Adopted by Conference

The United Methodist General Conference 2012 asked that “all United Methodist general boards and agencies prayerfully consider advocating that all companies formally recognize and adopt into their codes of conduct the United Nation Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (also known as the Ruggie Principles). The United Methodist Book of Discipline’s statement on Socially Responsible Investments says “The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment” (2012 Book of Discipline, ¶717). Furth, the United Methodist Church opposes Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Resolution #6111, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land,” 2012 Book of Resolutions).

Caterpillar, Inc. machines are used by the Israeli government and by the Israeli military for the demolition of Palestinian houses and water supplies in the occupied Palestinian territories, the construction of the Separation Wall, construction of settlements and settlement infrastructure on Palestinian land, the uprooting of olive trees, creation of roadblocks, and as weapons (“Facts on the Ground: Heavy Engineering Machinery and the Israeli Occupation Report,” Who Profits Research Center, July 2014).

Caterpillar’s D9 bulldozers favored by Israel’s military are not the familiar equipment used for farming or for municipal projects, but rather are two-story machines weighing 54 kilos/60 tons with a front blade more than 1.8 meters/6 feet high and 4.5 meters/15 feet wide and a claw-like hydraulic "ripper" in the back, as well as gun turrets (The Caterpillar Campaign, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, www.endtheoccupation.org). In fact, an Israeli military commander referred to Caterpillar bulldozers as "the key weapon" in its military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Alon, Ben David 'Israel- Double Jeopardy,' Jane's Defence Weekly, 11/17/04) Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz has declared, "The D-9 is a strategic weapon here." (www.btselem.org/Download/200101_Civilians_Under_Siege_Eng.doc). Caterpillar machines have been used in the killing of Palestinian civilians, including a pregnant woman, a paraplegic, an elderly paralyzed man, and families including children (http://www.apnewsarchive.com/2002/Bodies-Recovered-in-Nablus-Rubb1e/id-7216a4b0417bdd9c2beac8a5a7e554, An American peace activist, Rachel Corrie, was killed by a Caterpillar bulldozer as she tried to protect a Palestinian home from demolition, (http://rachelcorriefoundation.org).

Caterpillar sells its military equipment to Israel through the US Foreign Military Sales Program. Because this equipment is weaponized and used as a weapon in the occupied territories, the sale of Caterpillar bulldozers to the Israeli military violates the US Arms Export Control Act, which prohibits the use of US made machinery or weapons against a civilian population.

Israel’s sole Caterpillar distributor, Zoko Enterprises, provides employees who can function as reserve soldiers to service the D-9s during military operations on the battlefield, (“Facts on the Ground: Heavy Engineering Machinery and the Israeli Occupation Report,” Who Profits Research Center, July 2014). A 2013 report to the UN Human Rights Committee states that “Caterpillar could protect against the militarized misuse of its equipment by contracting restrictions for use in its sales agreements, such as the insertion of provisions eliminating further sales if Caterpillar products were employed in human rights violations. Such an option would allow Caterpillar to send a clear message that it will not be complicit in human rights abuses.” (The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Joint Parallel Report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, 109th Session, 14 October – 1 November 2013).
Caterpillar has shown it can guide its dealers and subsidiaries in matters concerning equipment use by a letter prohibiting them from accepting orders for equipment that could ultimately be used in Iran (http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748703429304575095430605944518).


The United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB) holds stock in Caterpillar, Inc, and has increased those holdings significantly since General Conference 2012.

For ten years, various groups from the United Methodist Church, other denominations and numerous advocacy groups have brought human rights violations to the attention of Caterpillar, Inc. through letters, emails and private meetings with Caterpillar officials, yet the company has failed to respond with any corrective measures. Despite repeated discussions concerning this issue, Caterpillar, Inc. has refused a direct request from GBPHB to sign the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The GBPHB, as part of their Socially Responsible Investing screens, lists “weapons” among other products that do not align with United Methodist values and thus “excludes investments in companies earning significant revenues from … weapons …” In 2012, GBPHB released a statement expressing “our belief that the company’s policies expose Caterpillar - and by extension, its shareholders - to reputational and financial risk.”

To encourage companies to be responsive to United Methodist concerns and to avoid profiting from weapons that support Israel’s occupation, the United Methodist General Conference 2016 directs the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to divest its shares of Caterpillar stock, and to exclude it from further investment until the company (1) signs the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, (2) stops providing D-9 bulldozers for Israel to use as weapons in the occupied Palestinian territories, and (3) prohibits all Caterpillar dealers or subsidiaries from accepting any orders for equipment where the dealer or subsidiary knows that the products will be used in the construction of Israeli settlements, the construction of bypass roads, the construction of the security barrier, or the demolition of Palestinian homes or agricultural fields in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Establishing a Screen to Remove and Avoid Investments in Illegal Settlements on Occupied Land

To General Board of Church and Society
Adopted by Conference

An occupying power in a foreign territory is prohibited from moving its own population onto land that it has occupied (Article 49, Geneva Convention IV). Communities created by such action and established by an occupying power on occupied land are commonly referred to as “illegal settlements.”

A business operating in an illegal settlement pays taxes to the settlement and the occupying power strengthening its economic base, taking advantage of land unlawfully seized from others, and
is complicit in the occupying power’s violations of human rights and international law. For these reasons, UN Global Compact calls on companies to “make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses” (unglobalcompact.org). Companies operating in illegal settlements often exploit resources in the occupied territories by mining, diverting water and polluting agricultural land. The Hague Conventions of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention clearly forbid exploitation of the natural resources of an occupied people.


The United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is a founding signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment, through which signatories agree to consider environmental and social, as well as governance issues, in investment decisions. (www.unpri.org).

The General Conference directs General Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church to develop and apply a screen that excludes investment in companies with involvement in illegal settlements by:

1. Having Physical presence or a subsidiary in an illegal settlement, or
2. Providing support services of any kind to an illegal settlement, or
3. Contributing to the financing or building of illegal settlements; and
4. Manufacturing products in or extracting resources from occupied land.

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2016 Book of Discipline ¶ 362

Amend ¶ 362 as follows:

¶362.

Complaint Procedures—1. Ordination and membership in an annual conference in The United Methodist Church is a sacred trust. The qualifications and duties of local pastors, associate members, provisional members, and full members are set forth in The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church, and we believe they flow from the gospel as taught by Jesus the Christ and proclaimed by his apostles. Whenever a person in any of the above categories, including those on leaves of all types, honorable or administrative location, or retirement, is accused, by a professing lay member or another clergy member of the conference in which they serve and/or live (with exceptions being made for complaints where criminal charges or abuse may be involved), of violating this trust, the membership of his or her ministerial office shall be subject to review.

Concerning Immigration
2019 Journal, pp. 80-81

Petitioner: Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors

WHEREAS the Scriptures proclaim that “The Lord your God...loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:17-19). And Jesus taught his disciples that when they took care of “the least of these,” including welcoming strangers, they were welcoming Him (Matthew 25:31-40);

WHEREAS The United Methodist Social Principles state “The mistreatment or torture, and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment of persons by governments for any purpose violates Christian teaching and must be condemned and/or opposed by Christians and churches wherever and whenever it occurs,” The Book of Discipline (2016) 2016, Par. 164A, p. 138;

WHEREAS The United Methodist Social Principles also state "We commit ourselves as a Church to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another. We pledge ourselves to seek the meaning of the gospel in all issues that divide people and threaten the growth of world community," The Book of Discipline (2016) 2016, Par. 165, p. 143;

WHEREAS The United Methodist Social Principles also state "We reaffirm our historic concern for the world as our parish and seek for all persons and peoples full and equal membership in a truly world community," The Book of Discipline (2016) 2016, Par. 165D, p. 144;

WHEREAS The United Methodist Social Principles also state “We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants, and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose the immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.” The Book of Discipline (2016) 2016, Par. 162H, p. 122;

WHEREAS Justice For Our Neighbors is a nationwide United Methodist organization offering legal assistance to immigrants in the United States. As Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors, in the Desert Southwest Conference, we welcome our immigrant brothers and sisters as fellow children of God, and neighbors in our conference; and

WHEREAS Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors opposes the incarceration of incoming migrants. We believe all of God’s children, regardless of national origin are entitled to due process rights, including the ability to post bond, the opportunity to seek council, and await the resolution/determination of their case out of detention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference petition the General Conference of the United Methodist Church to request that the General Board of Church and Society contact the appropriate United States Governmental Agencies, and demand the following:

• All children who have been separated from their families in the United States be reunited with their families as soon as possible;

• United States Government Agencies cease detaining individuals and families seeking asylum, and that those currently detained and those seeking to enter the United States as asylees be provided with due process as soon as possible;

• The facilities where immigrants are being detained be open for inspection, with a priority on those where immigrants are holding hunger protests; and

• Legislation for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, that reflects the principles and priorities noted above, be passed as soon as possible.
Amend ¶ 511.4.c as follows:
c) The commission, in cooperation with the United Methodist Publishing House, shall make all necessary arrangements for the publication of the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate and quadrennial reports of the Connectional Table and the general agencies of the church in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Kiswahili (standard), and for all delegates to have timely (90-day period) and convenient access to the most linguistically appropriate translation of these documents.


A Declaratory Decision from Judicial Council

WHEREAS the Book of Discipline (2016) ¶¶ 2610.1 and 2610.2.j authorize the annual conference to petition the Judicial Council for declaratory decisions as to the constitutionality, meaning, application, or effect of the Discipline on matters relating to the work of the annual conference;
WHEREAS The United Methodist Church maintains a separation of powers to divide government responsibilities into distinct branches (e.g., executive, legislative, and judicial) to limit any one branch from exercising the core functions of another, to prevent the concentration of power, and to provide for checks and balances;5
WHEREAS bishops are given residential and presidential supervision responsibilities6 as well as leadership responsibilities to “oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church”7 thereby representing the executive branch of this denomination;
WHEREAS bishops are given legal authority to “decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session” (emphasis added), which is a limited power given that all such decisions “shall not be authoritative… until it shall have been passed upon by the Judicial Council”8;
WHEREAS bishops have historically exercised their residential supervision and spiritual responsibilities and powers by discerning when a complaint should be dismissed for executive and pastoral reasons;9
WHEREAS the legislative branch (i.e., the February 2019 Special Session General Conference) just amended the Book of Discipline (2016) ¶¶ 362.1.e.1 and 413.3.d.i to remove executive and pastoral reasons for dismissing complaints and to limit complaint dismissals to only those “as having no basis in law or fact,” (emphasis added) thereby requiring bishops to act as quasi-magistrates and thereby legislating that the executive branch have judicial responsibilities;10

5 See Judicial Council Decision no. 689 for reinforcement of “separation of powers.”
7 See Book of Discipline (2016) ¶ 414.
8 See Book of Discipline (2016) ¶ 51.
9 See Book of Discipline (2016) ¶ 362.1.e.1 (with the consent of the cabinet) and ¶ 413.3.d.i (with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy).
10 See Petition 90044 (Traditional Plan #13).
WHEREAS supervision of the complaint process generally occurs between sessions of the Annual Conference, and the Judicial Council does not have the constitutional or Disciplinary authority to review legal assessments made by bishops in the dismissal of complaints;¹¹ now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and Rev. Anthony Tang petition for a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council on the Constitutionality of the Book of Discipline (2016) ¶¶ 362.1.e.1 and 413.3.d.i in light of their breaches of separation of powers, violation of ¶ 49 by arbitrarily restricting the residential and presidential supervision responsibilities of bishops in the performance of their duties, and violation of ¶ 51 by giving bishops legal authority between sessions of Annual Conferences without judicial oversight. Furthermore, if indeed not constitutional, that the words, “as having no basis in law or fact” be stricken from ¶¶ 362.1.e.1 and 413.3.d.i.


Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdictional Conference

WHEREAS the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops has declared in its response to Judicial Council Decision 1378 in a document dated April 26, 2019, entitled “A Home For All God’s People” that ....the intent of the Western Jurisdiction remains the same as was stated on the floor of General Conference 2019: to live in the spirit of “One Church.”... In the wake of the Judicial Council decisions, we continue our commitment to live into Beloved Community as one church in each of the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction.... we, your bishops, are prayerfully in conversation in many places, with many individuals and groups about your hopes and your vision for being Church in this challenging time. We remain committed to ministry as one church for all and we ask for your prayers for the church and for the future of the love and grace as we travel this road together, not knowing where it will lead us, yet, but confident in God’s presence with us.;” and

WHEREAS ¶521.2 of the Book of Discipline (2016) gives the College of Bishops the authority by two-thirds vote “to call a special session of the Jurisdictional Conference when necessary;” now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference petitions the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to call a special session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference, as needed, for the following purposes:
1. to consider and develop a process should separation from The United Methodist Church become inevitable;
2. to prayerfully consider how we can most faithfully continue to be a home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation; and
3. to recognize while there are many groups being formed within the Western Jurisdiction, there is a need for open communication and collaboration. In our desire for transparency and clarity we bring this resolution forward; be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to appoint a special planning team that will:
1. consider creative ways of minimizing the cost of a specially called session; and

¹¹ See Book of Discipline (2016) ¶¶ 2609 and 2610.
2. find creative sources for funding a specially called session. We urge immediate action so that the beginnings of a Jurisdictional plan can be in place prior to the 2020 General Conference; and be it further RESOLVED, that we will send key leaders (with voice, not vote) and our 2020 Jurisdictional Delegation as they were elected in 2018 for the purpose of doing that connectional work.

RESOLUTIONS DEFEATED BY THE CONFERENCE

For more information and text for each proposed resolution, see the Journal for that year.

Resolution 18.09: Credit Against Annual Conference Apportionments for Funds Spent on Qualifying Outreach Ministries
   1990 Journal, p. 38
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.13: Modification of the Apportionment Formula
   1990 Journal, p. 38
   No text provided in Journal.

The Supreme Court’s Webster Decision
   1990 Journal, p. 38
   No text provided in Journal.

Boycott Against California Table Grapes
   1990 Journal, p. 38
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.01: Holy Unions of Persons of Same-sex Orientation
   1991 Journal, p. 41
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.04: Reconciling Conference
   1991 Journal, p. 41
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.06: Peace with Justice Coordinator as a member of the Conference Council on Ministries Committee
   1991 Journal, p. 41
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.10: Iraqi Relief
   1991 Journal, p. 41
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.01: Becoming a Reconciling Conference
   1993 Journal, p. 36
   No text provided in Journal.

Resolution 18.04: Clergy Relocation Expenses
   1993 Journal, p. 36
   No text provided in Journal.
Resolution 18.05: Churches in Crisis – Churches Unable to Pay Conference Apportionments
1993 Journal, p. 36
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.50: Local Church Tithes
1994 Journal, p. 34
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.80: Funding of New Churches
1994 Journal, p. 34
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.05: Older Adult Ministries Representative
1995 Journal, p. 39
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.10: Repair of High Emitting Vehicles
1995 Journal, p. 39
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.35: Substitute Resolution for Resolution 21.15
1995 Journal, p. 39
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.10: On the Desert Southwest Conference Becoming a Reconciling Conference
1996 Journal, p. 40
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.30: To Help Create an Atmosphere for Spiritual Renewal
1996 Journal, p. 40
*No text provided in Journal.*

Resolution 21.30: Called Session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference
2001 Journal, p. 55

Resolution 21.60: Resolution on the Middle East
2002 Journal, p. 66

Resolution 21.80: Resolution for Petition to 2004 General Conference
*On human sexuality*
2002 Journal, pp. 66-67
Resolution 21.05: General Conference Petition Re: ¶332.6
2003 Journal, pp. 65-66

Resolution 21.10: General Conference Petition Re: ¶161.C) Marriage
2003 Journal, p. 66

Resolution 21.15: Resolution For Legislative Action
On when Legislative Actions can occur
2004 Journal, pp. 96-97

Resolution 21.20: Resolution For Revision of Apportionment Formula
2004 Journal, pp. 97-98

Resolution 21.25: For The Payment of General Jurisdictional Apportionments
2004 Journal, p. 98

Resolution 21.30 Resolution for Apportionment and Budget Policy Guidelines
2004 Journal, pp. 98-99

Resolution 21.35 Approve a 2005 Conference Budget of $5,397,666 that is the same as
the 2004 budget
2004 Journal, pp. 99-100

Resolution 21.00: Resolution for the payment of General and Jurisdictional
Apportionments
2005 Journal, p. 60

Resolution 21.00
On Arizona Constitutional amendment for marriage equality
2006 Journal, pp. 66-67

Resolution 21.35: Resolution Concerning the Annual Conference Budge to Reflect the
Gain or Loss of Membership
2007 Journal, pp. 62-63

Resolution 21.00 “Paperless” Conference Journal
2008 Journal, p. 57

Resolution 21.05: Presentation of Resolutions in a Timely Manner
2008 Journal, p. 57

Resolution 21.20: Investment in “Forward in Their Footsteps”
2008 Journal, pp. 57-58
21.20: Resolution to Western Jurisdiction Conference 2010

On being Welcoming conferences