

## **1992.12: Recognition of Retired Clergy and their surviving spouses and Diaconal Ministers and their relationship to Annual Conference Sessions**

1992 Journal, pp. 40-41

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**

1992 Journal, p. 41

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.