

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION
BY THE 2005 SESSION OF THE
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Action Item 1: Local Church Camping Coordinator

Submitted by: Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

Each local church in the Wisconsin Annual Conference is urged to name one layperson to be responsible for promotion of the Conference Camps and Retreats in that Local church. The Camping Coordinator's task will be to help the congregation understand the importance and value of the Conference camping program. The Coordinator will not only highlight the summer camp program but will also help the congregation be aware of retreat possibilities. Each local church shall send the name and address of its Camping Coordinator to the Camping Office in Sun Prairie as part of its yearly charge conference report.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 2: Camping Emphasis Sunday

Submitted by: Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

We recommend that every local church in the Wisconsin Annual Conference observe a Camp and Retreat Emphasis Sunday in the spring of 2006 for the purpose of interpreting the Conference camping and retreat program and for promoting the 2006 camps.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 3: Camper Recruitment by Local Churches

Submitted by: Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

We recommend that every local church/charge in the Wisconsin Annual Conference send a minimum of two new participants to experience a United Methodist camp/retreat event during the coming year.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 4: Rio Grande Conference Partnership

Submitted by: Board of Global Ministries

The Rio Grande Partnership Committee recommends that the Wisconsin Annual Conference renew our Partnership Relationship with the Rio Grande Conference for the remainder of this quadrennium.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 5: *United Methodist Women's Sunday*

Submitted by: *Conference United Methodist Women*

WHEREAS the United Methodist Women is an organization for many women, organized for over a hundred years and spanning the nation with local units and,

WHEREAS the organization provides opportunities for spiritual growth, emphasizing prayer and in-depth Bible study, offering Christian friendship, affirming the potential of every woman, developing a creative supportive fellowship, and

WHEREAS United Methodist Women expand concepts of Mission through participation in the global ministries of the church, and

WHEREAS Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women has a membership of about 8,000 in 250 local units actively serving the local church, and participating in mission locally, nationally and globally,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that there shall be a United Methodist Women's Sunday in every local church. Recommended date, September 25, 2005 or any other date to be determined by each local church.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 6: *Designation of Earnings from the "New Ministries Fund"*

Submitted by: *Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

We recommend that the Annual Conference designate the earnings from the undesignated "New Ministries Fund," to provide stewardship programming and resources to local congregations through the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 7: *Resolution on Director of Communications and Technology*

Submitted by: *Communications Committee*

WHEREAS General Conference 2004 adopted petition 40265 which recommends that "each annual conference or episcopal area have a director of communications" and that "the director be part of the extended cabinet (or equivalent structure);" and

WHEREAS the current staffing in the Wisconsin Conference provides for a coordinator-level position;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Director of Communications and Technology position be established with the primary responsibility of focusing and guiding the communications ministry and the technology of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church and its affiliated boards, agencies, and congregations, to start January 2007.

a) The Director will have the following duties:

1. Help identify, equip, and coordinate the work of a communications team (staff and/or volunteers);
2. Develop and guide the implementation strategies for effective communication for annual conference agencies, districts, circuits and local churches;
3. Provide guidance and training in effective communications for annual conference, district, circuit, and/or local church leaders;
4. Research for the conference the use of new and emerging technologies as tools for ministry;

5. Develop, implement, and maintain the Information Technology (IT) structure and services for the Wisconsin Conference Center; and to provide consultation to agencies, districts, and local churches on IT matters;
6. Oversee training required to effectively integrate technologies into the circuit/local church experience;
7. Oversee the purchase and implementation of any network structures used in the Wisconsin Conference Center and district offices;
8. Be responsible for implementation of crisis communications strategies for the annual conference and conference agencies; and consultation to local churches on crisis communications strategies;
9. Be responsible for the development, implementation and reconciliation of the Communications and Technology budget subject to the limits imposed by the Conference or CF&A;
10. Promote and coordinate activities to enhance awareness of The United Methodist Church in Wisconsin, and the Church's public image, including the development of effective relationships with news media;
11. Provide the connectional relationship between the Conference and United Methodist Communications (UMCom).

b) The Director be part of the extended cabinet to provide advice and counsel concerning communications strategies relating to the conference program, conference budget interpretation, conference Information Technologies structure, and other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Communications and Technology be responsible for implementing a consistent level of quality as well as "look and feel" for all conference publications, whether print or electronic, through the use of a standardized design manual and application practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffing for the Office of Communications and Technology be as follows: Director plus two staff persons who have two primary functions: Content Design and IT Administration.

a) The Director will be responsible for guiding the overall work of the communications staff and training that integrates technology into the life of congregations (for example: multi-sensory worship training; opportunities and training to develop online courses across the Wisconsin conference; video conferencing training).

b) Content Design staff person will oversee the development of a standardized style manual and application practices for all communication pieces issued or in use by the annual conference, annual conference agencies, and districts; will help guide the adoption of the standardized pages for conference agency/board/committee websites; be responsible for development of website design training; and be cross-trained to provide coverage for IT Administration position.

c) IT Administration staff person will be cross-trained to provide coverage for Content Design position; provide Email administration, password administration, list administration, network administration, database support; and coordinate the training of Conference Center employees on equipment and software.

d) Content Design staff and IT Administration staff will share responsibility for software and specialized technical training for circuit groups, local churches, individuals, conference employees, and members of conference and district agencies.

Conference Action: Referred to Conference Personnel Committee for Study and Report to the 2006 Conference Session

Action Item 8: *Resolution on the Proposed Marriage Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution*

Submitted by: *Madison: Bethany United Methodist Church*

WHEREAS, United Methodist Social Principles state that:

“We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman,” (*Discipline* para. 161(C))

while at the same time insisting that:

“Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting 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. . . .” [*Discipline* para. 162(H)],

WHEREAS, the following two sentences are proposed to be added to the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin: "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state."

WHEREAS, the first sentence of the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution is not necessary to define marriage as union of one man and one woman, as this is already established law in Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the second sentence of the proposed amendment would legally undermine certain basic human and civil rights of homosexual persons recognized by The United Methodist Social Principles [Paragraph 162(H)], and would become the first amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution to limit rather than expand and protect human rights and freedoms,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges its clergy and lay members to enter into informed and respectful dialogue with Wisconsin citizens on all sides of the Marriage Amendment issue and urge their state legislators not to pass the proposed Wisconsin Marriage Amendment.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 9: *Resolution on Housing Allowance for Retired and Disabled Clergy*

Submitted by: *Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation*

WHEREAS the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed;

WHEREAS the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its ordained or licensed ministers;

WHEREAS pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered deferred compensation and paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and

WHEREAS the Internal Revenue Service acknowledges the Wisconsin Annual Conference as the appropriate organization to designate a housing allowance for retired and disabled ordained and licensed ministers who are members of this Conference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED an amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received during 2006 is designated as a housing allowance for each ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or placed on disability leave by the Wisconsin Annual Conference and whose name and relationship is recorded in the *Yearbook* and *Journal* and other records;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the pension payment to which this housing allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference, or institution of The United Methodist Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired or disabled minister's pension.

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

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 10: *Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate*

Submitted By: *Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation*

BE IT RESOLVED the Past Service Annuity Rate (PSR) for 2006 shall be \$571.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 11: *Resolution on Minimum Compensation*

Submitted By: *Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation*

WHEREAS the formula for establishing the minimum compensation for ordained clergy, local pastors, and student local pastors appointed to charges in the Wisconsin Annual Conference is the minimum compensation for the previous year for each category, plus the cost of living factor established by the U.S. Government for Social Security purposes, plus 1%,

AND WHEREAS this formula was approved by the 1996 session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference for implementation starting in January 1998 and has not since been changed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Minimum Compensation for Conference members serving full time for 2006 shall be \$30,824. The Minimum Compensation for Local Pastors serving full time shall be \$27,130. The Minimum Compensation for Student Local Pastors serving at least 27 hours per week plus 3 months of full time service during the summer, shall be \$23,117.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 12: *Resolution on 2005 Formal Funding Plan for Pre-1982 Pension Liability*

Submitted By: *Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation*

Letter of Introduction To Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

The following funding plan is in the format recommended by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) of The United Methodist Church. This plan begins by discussing the Wisconsin Conference Past Service Rate (PSR) philosophy. The PSR is the dollar amount that is multiplied by years of Pre-1982 service to determine the annual pension benefits paid to a pastor for Pre-1982 service. The PSR for the coming year is set by Annual Conference based on the recommendation made by the Joint Board.

In the past, the Wisconsin Conference set a goal for the PSR to reach 1% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). That goal was reached in 1998, and for the year 2005 the PSR is 1.14% of the CAC. For the future, the Joint Board recommends that the PSR keep pace with inflation by using the index that the U.S. Government uses for Social Security payments. We do not think it is appropriate any longer for it to be linked with the CAC. We will, of course, meet the minimum requirement in *The Discipline* that states that the PSR stay at .9% of the CAC or higher.

Also in the past, the PSR increased at a faster rate than the CAC, but those increases were necessary due to the initial lower levels of PSR (PSR was .8% of CAC in 1982). Consequently, we expect the PSR to increase at a slower rate in the future, though we will keep up with inflation.

The plan then goes on to list a number of factors:

Present Value of Expected Future Benefits (PVB): This is an estimate of our Pre-1982 pension liability. The GBOPHB calculates this amount based on a series of assumptions:

Mortality – how long retirees and their spouses are expected to live (based on standard industry tables)

Cost of Living – rate at which the PSR is expected to increase in the future (influenced by the Conference PSR philosophy, discussed above)

Investment earnings – rate of return expected from our assets, including interest, dividends, and capital growth (GBOPHB uses 7% as a long term value).

Current Plan Assets: This is the current value of the money that has been invested with the GBOPHB to provide for payment of Pre-1982 pension obligations.

Funded Status: This is the amount that our current plan assets exceed the present value of expected future benefits.

Non-Plan Assets available for Retiree Benefits:

Deposit Account – money held by the GBOPHB that came from prior earnings on the Permanent Pension Fund and the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund.

Permanent Pension Fund (PPF) and Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund (MPMF) are permanent endowment funds established on behalf of Wisconsin Conference retirees. Per trust documents approved by Annual Conference, five percent of the December 31 market value of these funds is available to provide pension and retiree medical benefits for retired ministers and surviving spouses of the Wisconsin Conference. Contributions to these funds are made by individuals and estates.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS at General Conference 2000 legislation was approved that requires each conference to annually adopt and publish a formal funding plan addressing its obligation for the pension plan that applies to years of service prior to 1983, and

WHEREAS all conferences are required to fully fund their Pre-1982 pension obligation by the year 2021, and

WHEREAS the intent of this legislation is to help the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) determine that all conferences are satisfactorily addressing the funding of this liability,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following Formal Funding Plan, with the letter of introduction, be adopted as the 2005 Formal Funding Plan and be published in the 2005 Conference Yearbook and Journal.

**WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2005**

Formal Funding Plan – Pre-1982 Pensions

2005 Past Service Rate (PSR) - \$556.00

PSR Philosophy – Increase PSR for inflation as of December of each year. Target for same Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase that is used for Social Security purposes.

The current PSR is at 1.14% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). This percentage is above the original Wisconsin Annual Conference goal of 1.0% of the CAC, as set by the 1969 merging conference. The PSR will no longer be tied to the CAC (other than the various minimum requirements) since we are well above our 1.0% goal and apportionment money is no longer being used to pay for these costs.

Current Plan Assets-1/2003	\$59,878,066*
Present Value of Expected Future Benefits-1/2003	\$53,088,801*
Funded Status-1/2003	\$ 6,789,265*

Non-plan assets available for retiree benefits: The funds that may be available to supplement pension/retirement funds for the Wisconsin Annual Conference are (values at 1/1/05):

1. Deposit Account at General Board of Pensions - \$2,758,912
2. Other Funds:
 - The Wisconsin Annual Conference established the Permanent Pension Fund in 1969. The Permanent Pension Fund has a balance of \$2,540,003.
 - The Wisconsin Annual Conference established the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund in 1983. The Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund has a balance of \$1,113,301.
 - Per trust documents approved by Annual Conference, five percent of the December 31 market value of these funds is available to provide pension and retiree medical benefits for retired ministers and surviving spouses of the Wisconsin Conference.

Amortization Period – Not applicable.

Additional Contributions – We do not anticipate that any special deposits will be needed, since the Conference is currently over funded.

The contributions to the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund and the Permanent Pension Fund come from individuals. The contributions come from gifts, primarily from estates. The size and frequency of future contributions is uncertain. The Wisconsin Annual Conference intends to continue to solicit additional contributions to each Fund. The investment return on the Funds is uncertain.

Contingency plans for PSR increases – Any faster increases in the PSR due to higher inflation are expected to be counter-balanced by slower increases at later (or prior) times, due to lower inflation. We use 3.0% as our long-term inflation assumption.

*Figures provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits 2005 Actuarial Valuation.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 13: Amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church

Submitted by: General Conference of The United Methodist Church

TO: Secretaries of Annual Conferences

FROM: Carolyn M. Marshall, Secretary of the General Conference

During the 2004 General Conference, action was taken on eight (8) Proposed Constitutional Amendments. They are now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote. This is in accord with 2000 *Book of Discipline* ¶57, *Article I* (2004 *Book of Discipline* ¶59, *Article I*), which reads:

Amendments to the Constitution shall be made upon a two-thirds majority of the General Conference present and voting and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, except in the case of the first and second Restrictive Rules, which shall require a three-fourths majority of all the members of the annual conferences present and voting. The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon their announcement of its having received the required majority.

Specifics on all the Proposed Constitutional Amendments follow. The results of a count vote on each Proposed Constitutional Amendment must be recorded. When completed the Official Certificate of Action is to be sent to Bishop Roy Sano, Executive Secretary of the Council of Bishops.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 812 Yes, 72 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division II, Section II, ¶12.2, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division II, Section II, ¶13.2, *Article I*) amend by substitution as follows:

Delete ¶12.2, which reads, “Delegates shall be elected by the annual conferences except that delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other’s highest legislative conferences.” In its place, substitute, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other’s legislative conferences.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶12.2 (¶13.2) would read:

Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other’s legislative conferences.

Rationale: The proposed amendment specifies that a fair and open process shall be utilized for the election of General Conference delegates.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-491; No-63

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 876 Yes, 20 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶15.2, *Article IV*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶16.2, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “and” before “deaconesses” and add “and home missionaries” at end of sentence.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶15.2 (¶16.2) would read:

To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries.

Rationale: The proposed amendment adds home missionaries to the classifications over which General Conference has authority to define and fix powers and duties.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-547; No-8

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 873 Yes, 31 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶25.4, *Article V*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶27.4, *Article V*) amend by deletion, as follows:

Delete “and provided further that this provision shall not apply to annual conferences of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church during the first three quadrenniums after union.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶25.4 (¶27.4) would read:

To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences; *provided* that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference.

Rationale: The phrase, proposed to be deleted, applied to annual conference in existence prior to 1981. It is now obsolete and may be appropriately discontinued.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-491; No-5

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 851 Yes, 60 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay),” after “district lay leaders” in the first sentence.

Rationale: The proposed amendment would guarantee that the person responsible for promoting work of the Mission agency of The United Methodist Church is a member of the Annual Conference. Approximately 30% of Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries are laity. Presently, unless elected by their home church or included under the Conference’s equalization rule, this person is not a member of the Annual Conference.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-539; No-14

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 864 Yes, 34 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “and home missionaries” after “the active deaconesses” in the first sentence.

Rationale: The proposed amendment adds home missionaries under Episcopal appointment to the membership of the annual conference.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-544; No-8

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VI

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 832 Yes, 51 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries” after “district lay leaders” in the first sentence.

Rationale: The proposed constitutional amendment is needed to support the addition of the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries to the list of lay members of the annual conference in ¶602.4, as passed by General Conference in 2000.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-539; No-14

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VII

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 877 Yes, 19 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

Add “and lay” between “clergy” and “members” in first sentence.

Delete “as defined by the General Conference, together with” after “clergy and lay members” in first sentence.

Place a period after “clergy and lay members” in first sentence. Insert the following immediately after the first sentence: “The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶30 (¶32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the

central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

Rationale: The proposed amendment provides a definition of clergy members of the annual conference.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-110; No-443

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VIII

On May 7, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 806 Yes, 32 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶57, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶59, *Article I*) amend by addition.

Add a new second paragraph as follows, "In the event that the General Conference adopts an amendment to the Constitution, the General Conference may immediately adopt enabling legislation for such amendment which shall be contingent on ratification of the amendment by the required two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, and effective once the Council of Bishops, operating as a canvasser of votes, announces that the amendment has been passed. In the same manner, an annual conference may approve legislation in anticipation of such a change in the Discipline and/or Constitution that would likewise become effective upon the effective date of said Disciplinary Change or Constitutional Amendment.

Rationale: The proposed amendment would make possible adoption of enabling legislation at the same General Conference as the amendment is voted. Such adoption would be contingent upon required ratification by the various annual conferences. Presently, enabling legislation cannot be introduced until at least the General Conference following adoption, and subsequent ratification, of a constitutional amendment.

Wisconsin Conference Vote: Yes-256; No-294

Action Item 14: Proposed Rules Changes

Submitted by: Conference Rules Committee

The Rules Committee is responsible for reviewing and processing proposed changes in the Wisconsin Conference Rules and Policies, and forwarding such proposals to the annual conference. The following will be respectfully submitted for consideration at the 2005 session, and come with the support of the committee except as noted.

Brian Armstrong, Chairperson

Explanation of methods used to identify changes:

Arial Black Font with Double Underline refers to deletions:

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Single Underlined characters refer to additions or corrections:

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Revision Item #1: Correction of Pension Policy item 100.1.3 (2004 Yearbook and Journal, Volume One, page 230),

Submitted by the Joint Board of Pension, Insurance, and Equitable Compensation:

100.1.3 Funding. Funding for the MPP is by direct payment of by each charge to the **General Board of Pension and Health Benefits** Wisconsin Annual Conference effective 10-1-05. Until that date, payment is made to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Recommendation for Revision Item #1: This change in practice has been mandated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the revision brings the Conference Rules into agreement with the requirements of the Ministerial Pension Plan. The Committee recommends approval to identify correctly who receives the direct payment of the MPP from *the charge*.

Conference Action: Approved

Revision Item #2: Resolution on Conference Rules regarding Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Submitted By: Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation

WHEREAS new language is needed in order to comply with changes made to the Comprehensive Protection Plan by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and

WHEREAS additional new language is needed in order to bring into agreement Conference rules and the “Conference Comprehensive Protection Plan Adoption Agreement for 2005 and 2006” with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and

WHEREAS no current benefits are being lost by bringing the Conference into compliance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that current Rules 100.2.0 through 100.2.2. b. be deleted and replaced with the following:

- 100.2.0 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church and found in The Conference “Comprehensive Protection Plan Adoption Agreement.”
- 100.2.1 Funding. Funding for CPP is by direct payment from each charge to the Wisconsin Annual Conference effective 10-1-05. Until that date, payment is sent to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- 100.2.2 All Full and Associate Members appointed to Sabbatical will be enrolled in CPP for a maximum of one year with the premium paid by the Conference.
- 100.2.3 All Full, Probationary, and Associate Members appointed to Attend School after having previously served under appointment by the Conference to a local church may be enrolled in CPP if the Member pays the premium effective January 1, 2006.

AND BE IT RESOLVED that current Rules 100.3.0 through 100.3.9 be deleted and replaced with the following:

- 100.2.4 Student Local Pastors are not eligible to participate in CPP.
- 100.2.5 Clergy on Leave of Absence are not eligible to participate in CPP.
- 100.2.6 Clergy from other denominations who are appointed full time to a local church may choose to participate in a death and disability benefit plan sponsored by their denomination. The local church will contribute to this other denominational plan, with the amount paid not to exceed the CPP premium amount.
- 100.2.7 Full Members serving in Extension Ministries may participate in CPP at the employer's expense but only if the employer signs a CPP Adoption Agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Recommendation for Revision Item #2: The Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation is recommending that the current sections 100.2.0 through 100.2.2(b) and 100.3.0 through 100.3.9 be replaced with the language in this recommendation in order to bring the Conference Rules into agreement with the "Conference Comprehensive Protection Plan Adoption Agreement for 2005 and 2006" with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. No current benefits are lost by making these changes. The Rules Committee recommends adoption of this revision by the Annual Conference.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 15: Resolution renewing a the Covenant Relationship with Cedar Crest, Inc. and The Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Submitted by: Board of Global Ministries, Health and Welfare Committee

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church promotes and supports 'works of mercy' as a part of its Wesleyan heritage and church tradition;

WHEREAS the Health & Welfare Committee has the responsibility of developing and sustaining connectional relationships with The United Methodist Church founded and created health & welfare ministries under the *Book of Discipline* and Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries;

WHEREAS Cedar Crest, Inc. was incorporated in 1963 with United Methodist support and vision and has been in relationship with The Wisconsin Annual Conference for many years,

WHEREAS as a spiritually-based, not-for-profit organization, Cedar Crest, Inc., sustains a dynamic community where senior adults may achieve a high quality of life by providing social and support services as well as a variety of independent, assisted, and health center living options in the Janesville area by providing an array of long-term care services for seniors;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Cedar Crest, Inc. has reviewed and re-written its covenant relationship with The Wisconsin Annual Conference and is actively participating on the Health and Welfare Committee;

WHEREAS the Board of Global Ministries of The Wisconsin Annual Conference supports the revised covenant/relationship statement as reviewed and approved by the Wisconsin Conference Health and Welfare Committee in January of 2005;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2005 Session of The Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms its covenantal relationship with Cedar Crest, Inc. as outlined below:

**Covenant of Affiliation Between
Cedar Crest, Inc. and The Wisconsin Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church**

The primary objective of the Covenant of Affiliation (Covenant) between the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church (Conference) and Cedar Crest, Inc., a United Methodist related health and welfare ministry within its borders, is to identify mutually agreeable expectations for each party. The Conference Health and Welfare Ministries Committee (Committee) will function as the point of contact between Cedar Crest and the Conference.

Conference Expectations	Cedar Crest Expectations
1. Communicate to Cedar Crest the requirements and changes in <i>The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church</i> (current edition), the rules of the Conference, and the actions of the Conference and the General Conference of The United Methodist Church which may affect Cedar Crest.	1. Be guided in decision making by the United Methodist Social Principles (current edition), <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> (current edition), and the investment policies of The United Methodist Church.
2. Communicate to Cedar Crest the rules and regulations established by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church regarding use of the name "The United Methodist Church" and the "Cross and Flame" insignia of The United Methodist Church.	2. Abide by rules and regulations established by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church regarding use of the name "The United Methodist Church" and the "Cross and Flame" insignia of the United Methodist Church.
3. Maintain membership and active participation in the Conference Health and Welfare Ministries Committee.	3. Maintain membership and active participation in the Conference Health and Welfare Ministries Committee.
4. The Resident Bishop and District Superintendent will serve as ex-official members of the Cedar Crest Board of Directors. These individuals or their designee will serve as liaisons to work with Cedar Crest to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties	4. Involve in all Cedar Crest board meetings the Resident Bishop, District Superintendent or their designee as a liaison person to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Periodically review the relationship of the Conference and Cedar Crest and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.	5. Periodically review the relationship of Cedar Crest and the Conference and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.
6. Advocate and promote Cedar Crest's mission and programs through the communication channels of the Conference, including the Conference Journal, the Conference proceedings, the Golden Cross appeal, the Conference magazine or newsletter, and other means.	6. Inform the Annual Conference whenever Cedar Crest begins a new program of service in response to emerging trends and community needs.

Continued on Next Page...

2005 Wisconsin Conference Journal

7. Encourage collaboration among health and welfare ministries, Conference entities, and local churches to respond to health and welfare needs within the Conference.	7. Cooperate with the Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and congregations in the Cedar Crest service area in creating new and expanded health and welfare ministries within the Conference.
8. Assist Cedar Crest in making high quality spiritual life resources available to its residents.	8. Provide high quality spiritual life resources to Cedar Crest residents.
9. Give consideration to the financial needs of all Conference related health and welfare ministries in the Conference's annual budget setting process.	9. Provide the Committee with Cedar Crest's mission statement, articles of incorporation and by-laws and amendments made from time to time.
10. Make training resources available to the Cedar Crest staff and board of directors in mutually identified areas of interest, for example: (a) board membership and responsibilities; (b) planned giving; (c) providing spiritual life resources to clients; (d) connectionism within The United Methodist Church; (e) strategic planning.	10. Consider utilizing training available through the Conference.
11. Have churches in Cedar Crest service area annually report to the annual Church/Charge Conference their support (financial, promotion, volun-	11. Elect members of the United Methodist Church to at least one-third of the positions on Cedar Crest's board of directors.
12. Indemnify and hold Cedar Crest harmless from and against any claims, causes of action, and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which may arise from any Conference operations.	12. Indemnify and hold the Conference, its boards and agencies, volunteers, employees, and members harmless from and against any claims, causes of actions, and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which may arise from any Cedar Crest operations.
13. Carry general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure the conference, its officers, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims by third parties for activities undertaken by the Conference.	13. Carry professional and general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure Cedar Crest, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers from and against any claims from third parties for activities undertaken by Cedar Crest.
14. Encourage local United Methodist pastors to participate in Cedar Crest programs through the Cedar Crest Chaplain.	14. Provide to the Committee annually a list of names, addresses, and church affiliations (if known) of members of the Cedar Crest Board
15. Arrange an annual on-site visit with the Conference District Superintendent of the Capital District.	15. Identify in promotional materials that Cedar Crest is affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 16: Resolution on Global AIDS Initiative

Submitted by: Dorene Pease, Salem Fond du Lac and Lamartine

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

WHEREAS, 9000 people die from AIDS every day, and

WHEREAS, the monthly death toll from AIDS surpasses the total deaths from the South Asia tsunami last December, and

WHEREAS, there are already more than 22 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone, and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Bishop Joseph Humper of Sierra Leone contends that it is not so much HIV/AIDS, but the culture of silence around the pandemic that is killing Africa's future leadership, and

WHEREAS, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church established a Global AIDS Fund with a goal of \$8,000,000 in Special Giving for this quadrennium,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday each year for the remainder of this quadrennium, and that the Bishop appoint a Task Force to secure resources for, encourage participation in, and give oversight to this observance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference establish a goal of raising an average of \$1.00 per member by receiving a special offering for the United Methodist Global Aids Fund in each local church each year for the remainder of the quadrennium on a Sunday designated by the Bishop as Global AIDS Awareness Sunday.

Conference Action: Approved as Amended

Action Item 17: Resolution On The Use Of Torture By The U.S. Government

Submitted by: The Rev. Elaine Weidemann, Elder, The Rev. Robert H. Adams, Elder

WHEREAS: Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Matt. 5:7).

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' but I say to you, 'Do not resist an evil-doer. If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.'" and "Love your enemies and pray for them that persecute you," (Matt. 5:43-45), and "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you," (Matt. 7:12) and

WHEREAS: Peter said, "It is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish ... do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Fear God." (1 Peter 2:15-17) and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state that "the mistreatment or torture of persons by governments for any purpose violates Christian teaching and must be condemned and/or opposed by Christians and churches whenever and wherever it occurs" (Para.165C, page 35) and "human values must outweigh military claims as governments determines their priorities" (Para 165C, page 35) and

WHEREAS: "The label 'enemy combatants' has no legal significance. It's obvious and only real meaning is the dictionary meaning, 'a person from another nation who has taken up arms' (in this case) against the United States. The people held at Guantanamo and prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan and other Middle East countries are 'ALLEGED terrorist suspects' who do not belong to a nation state and who should be tried under criminal law." (GUANTANAMO, Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray, pgs. 21-22) and

WHEREAS: The term “rendition” has been coined to name the illegal act of giving over prisoners to nations who allow interrogation techniques that are illegal in the United States and by the standards in international treaties respected in most countries of the world; and

WHEREAS: Former President Jimmy Carter, in “The Sees of a Rights Scandal,” (The Washington Post, May 14, 2004) stated that our treatment of prisoners in Iraq is a violation of the human rights laws that have evolved over time, beginning with the Magna Carta in 1215 CE. The policies of the US encourage our enemies to treat our captured soldiers and civilians in a retaliatory manner.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes the use of torture in prisons maintained for alleged terrorist suspects in Guantanamo, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and opposes the “rendition” of suspected terrorists to “friendly nations” that allow the use of torture in the interrogations of prisoners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The US Court systems cease using evidence acquired by torture in U.S. Courts.

Conference Action: Approved

**Action Item 18: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Kennan United Methodist Church
Submitted by: District Superintendents**

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church of Kennan has served in faithful ministry for 100 years and held its 100 year celebration on October 3, 2004; and

WHEREAS, people have come to know and experience God through the ministries of worship, mission, study and fellowship in the Kennan United Methodist Church; and,

WHEREAS, the Church Conference of the Phillips/Hawkins/Kennan United Methodist Churches with only Kennan voting, voted on November 29, 2004 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the Kennan United Methodist Church and the transfer of membership to the Phillips and/or Hawkins United Methodist Churches (which has been done); and

WHEREAS, the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop Linda Lee, a majority of the District Superintendents, and the District Board of Church Location and Building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in the 36th session, June 12 -15, 2005, at Middleton, Wisconsin, declares Kennan United Methodist Church of Kennan, Wisconsin, discontinued as of December 31, 2004:

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the net proceeds of the sale of the church property and all remaining assets be deposited in the Kennan United Methodist Memorial Scholarship Fund administered by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc. for use for graduating Seniors of the Kennan/Catawba area. The Phillips United Methodist Scholarship Committee will choose the recipient(s).

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 19: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Humbird United Methodist Church

Submitted by: District Superintendents

WHEREAS, Humbird United Methodist Church has been a faithful, life-giving Church for over 120 years in the Village of Humbird of West Central Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, people have come to know and experience God through the ministries of worship, mission, study and fellowship in the Humbird United Methodist Church; and,

WHEREAS, Humbird United Methodist Church has been faithful in the payment of apportionments which has reached thousands of people around the world; and,

WHEREAS, the sociology and culture of the area have changed, along with mobility of people and the aging of the Church Community; and,

WHEREAS, at a Church Conference held Sunday, May 15, 2005, the members voted unanimously to discontinue; and,

WHEREAS, the Heartland District Committee on Church Location and Building has approved the discontinuance, the Conference Board of Trustees, area presiding Bishop Linda Lee, and the District Superintendents have consented to the discontinuance of Humbird United Methodist Church; and,

WHEREAS, pastoral care has been given to the members of Humbird United Methodist Church and effort has been made to transfer membership to area United Methodist Churches; and proper care has been given to the records and other legal and official documents

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in the 36th session, June 12-15, 2005 at Middleton, Wisconsin, declares Humbird United Methodist Church of Humbird, Wisconsin discontinued as of September 12th, 2005 and direct the Heartland District Superintendent to be the officer of the conference to implement this action.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of Humbird United Methodist Church has until September 12, 2005 to dispose of all assets of the church by paying 100% of the 2005 apportionments, with remaining monies being used to pay all unpaid bills of the church and the remainder given to membership selected charities.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 20: Proposed 2006 Wisconsin Conference Budget

Submitted by: Conference Council on Finance and Administration

The 2006 Budget is printed at the end of the "Action Items" section

Conference Action: Approved as amended

Action Item 21: *Resolution on the Summer Developer's Program*

Submitted by: *Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee*

Whereas, the Conference Finance and Administration has recommended \$10,000 be budgeted for the Summer Developer's Program of the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee; and

Whereas, the Summer Developer's Program is a vital program that allows our next generation of ethnic lay leaders to explore new and exciting ways of putting God's word and the United Methodist Church's work into action in our local communities; and

Whereas the Summer Developer's Program allows each community to organize its outreach based on the gifts of its leaders combined with the needs of these local communities; and

Whereas, the communities especially targeted for these individualized programs include vulnerable people within the African-American, Pacific-and Asian American, Native American, Hispanic-Latino American and other minorities; and

Whereas, the Summer Developer's Program involved 67 lay leaders in ministry to 700 children and young people over the past six years (1999-2004); and

Whereas, this program has proven results, yet has had its Conference funding cut to a level that impedes its ability to reach our most vulnerable, unchurched, under-served and people thirsting to drink from the cup of God's word; and

Whereas, we know the program's extensive work and success requires adequate funding, which was at \$25,000 in 2000 and 2001 therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Ethnic Minority and Local Church Concerns Committee gratefully appreciates the Council on Finance and Administration adding \$10,000 to the Summer Developer's Program for 2006; and

Be it further resolved, that an additional \$8,000 be added to the Summer Developer's Program for 2006 to ensure the continued success of this vital outreach program of the United Methodist Church.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 22: *United Methodist Youth Sunday*

Submitted by: *Conference Council on Youth Ministries*

Proposal:

- There shall be a United Methodist Youth Sunday in every local church to recognize the role and commitment of United Methodist Youth.
- We recommend that churches look at the Sunday after Thanksgiving, also known as UM Student Sunday in The United Methodist Church. The Wisconsin Conference Council on Youth Ministries is willing to help provide resources to support leadership in this task. Resources such as bulletin inserts, videos, and pamphlets about conference youth leadership will be made available in the early part of August.

Rationale:

- Youth are an important part of the church today. It is important to recognize these persons and encourage them as leaders in the church. Not many people realize the amount of work that is done by youth, and we feel that they also need to be lifted up.

- The youth of our churches represent not only the future of the church, but a very present strength and reality in our congregations around the Annual Conference.
- The strength and vitality of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry is a vital witness to youth around this Conference and a source of encouragement and training for the local church youth groups of our Conference.
- Youth in our local congregations around this Annual Conference are engaged in mission, evangelism, spiritual growth and leadership development.
- The local church can gain a wealth of leadership potential and energy by tapping into the resources youth offer to local congregations.

Conference Action: *Approved*

Action Item 23: *Immigrant Rights Resolution*

Submitted by: *Craig L. Myrbo (Lay Member, Madison: Sherman Avenue), Liz Fabiola Villagarcia (Clergy, First Hispanic, Madison) Frank Gaylord, Elder, Sandra Gaylord, Elder*

WHEREAS: God heard the cry of sojourners in the land of Egypt, Ex. 3:7. and

WHEREAS: God commands us to remember the sojourner. Exodus 23:9. and

WHEREAS: Jesus reminds us that, “The last shall be first, and the first shall be last” Matthew 20:16. and

WHEREAS: Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10: 29-37. and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles (Para. 163F) state: “ We advocate for the rights of all migrants and applaud their efforts toward responsible self-organization and self-determination. We call upon governments and all employers to ensure for migratory workers the same economic, educational, and social benefits enjoyed by other citizens.” and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles (Para. 164A) call on all governments to protect the rights of all people.

WHEREAS: Members of the United Methodist Church worldwide have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, and mistreatment (see Book of Resolutions p. 341)

WHEREAS: Sojourners in Wisconsin in 2005 have been systematically discriminated against, and harassed and mistreated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church supports the rights of undocumented immigrants and calls upon governments at the local, state and national levels to cease said discrimination, harassment and mistreatment.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church call on the United States Government to develop an amnesty program for undocumented persons to be implemented immediately.

Conference Action: *Defeated*

Action Item 24: Resolution Regarding Health Care

Submitted by: *Lance Herrick, Frank and Martha Kuhlman, Sandra Gaylord, George and Theren Robson, Jerry Krause*

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, paragraph 162, T) *Right to Health Care*, states, "Health care is a basic human right,"

WHEREAS, the Social Principles, paragraph 162, T) also says, "We also recognize the role of governments in ensuring that each individual has access to those elements necessary to good health,"

WHEREAS, an estimated 45,000,000 residents of the United States of America have no health insurance,

WHEREAS, the largest and richest corporation in the world, Wal-Mart, currently has 809 employees, and 1,252 of their dependents enrolled in BadgerCare at the cost of \$2,734,368 per year to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 24, 2005).

WHEREAS, the ten largest corporate users of BadgerCare, including Wal-Mart, follow WalMart's model, though not to their extent, currently have 1,858 employees, and 2,919 dependents enrolled in this health insurance program at a cost of \$6,375,096 (*ibid.*).

WHEREAS, this pattern is repeated across the nation (in Georgia, 10,000 dependents of Wal-Mart employees were enrolled in PeachCare [Tom Hughes, *Democracy for America*, May 12, 2005]).

WHEREAS, Wal-Mart consistently resists efforts of its employees to engage in collective bargaining, in contradiction to the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (§163(C)) "We support the right of public and private (including farm, government, institutional, and domestic) employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining into unions and other groups of their own choosing," for promotion and protection of such benefits as health insurance coverage.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urge its members to advocate for health insurance coverage for all persons employed by Wal-Mart and other corporations within the bounds of the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urge its members to contact their legislative representatives and urge them to enact legislation that will provide health care for all persons.

Conference Action: Approved as Amended

Editor's Note: Text above printed in Double-Underlined Arial Font was DELETED from Action Item 24 by vote of the Annual Conference Session. It is NOT part of the approved resolution.