

**RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REQUIRING ACTION
BY THE
2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

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: Camp and Retreat 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 2007 for the purpose of interpreting the Conference camping and retreat program and for promoting the 2007 camps.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 3: New Camp Participants

Submitted by: Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

We recommend that every local church/charge/circuit 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: United Methodist Women's Sunday

Submitted by: Conference United Methodist Women

Be it resolved that the fourth Sunday of September, September 24, 2006, be designated United Methodist Women's Sunday in the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 5: Resolution On Encouraging Pastors To Participate In National VIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission) And/Or International UMVIM Trips.

Submitted by: Board of Global Ministries

WHEREAS, pastors are called to minister to all the world and;

WHEREAS, modeling mission outreach before, to, and with the local congregation is a vital part of pastoral ministry and;

WHEREAS, participation in a Volunteers in Mission trip can be a life transforming event that can have a positive impact on an individual's life and the life of the local congregation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages all pastors to take at least one National (including Wisconsin) or International UMVIM trip every five (5) years and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this trip is to be considered as part of the pastor's outreach ministry to the world and not to be considered vacation time and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local congregation be encouraged to provide financial support for the pastor.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 6: Resolution on Young Adult Ministry

Submitted by: Young Adult Leadership Team & Conference Council on Youth Ministries

WHEREAS there is a need to build better communication, resourcing, and development of young adult ministry (ages 18-30) in the Wisconsin Conference, and

WHEREAS there is a lack of young adult ministry on the local church level, as well as a lack of young adults active in local churches, and

WHEREAS the Annual Conference has limited resources in which to do major young adult ministry that would be able to reach and support all of young adult ministry, due to the diversity and needs of young adults, and

WHEREAS the conference is moving into new models of ministry and we have the opportunity to find new ways of developing and resourcing ministry across the conference, and

WHEREAS there is a need for better communication on what young adult ministries are doing within the local church and circuits, what resources are available for local young adult ministries, and on what the needs of young adults are in the variety of communities across the conference, and

WHEREAS the Annual Conference asked for a study of methods and effectiveness of young adult evangelism both within and outside of the Wisconsin Annual Conference as well as outside of the United Methodist Church. There is a need to continue developing that study especially as it relates to our Annual Conference in order to determine the needs of young adults and young adult ministry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every circuit will select a circuit point person in the area of young adult ministry, to be communicated to the young adult ministries office by June 2007, in order to better communicate, resource, and develop young adult ministries within local churches and circuits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these circuit point people will be responsible for communicating to the conference young adult ministries office the needs of young adults in their communities, both those young adults in and outside of local churches, as well as be responsible for working within their circuits to develop ministries to reach young adults in their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference young adult ministries office will work to provide resources on young adult ministries, as well as develop networking options for better communication to and between the circuit point people.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 7: United Methodist Youth Sunday

Submitted by: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

WHEREAS 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, and

WHEREAS 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, and

WHEREAS youth in our local congregations around this Annual Conference are engaged in mission, evangelism, spiritual growth and leadership development, and

WHEREAS the local church can gain a wealth of leadership potential and energy by tapping into the resources that youth have to offer to local congregations,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that 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 Sunday, November 26th for this day in 2006, but may use any day that best suits their church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 late part of August.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 8: 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 9: Dental Access Resolution

Submitted by: St. Paul’s UMC, Manitowoc, WI

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has a long history of addressing the needs of the poor dating back to our founders John and Charles Wesley, and

WHEREAS lack of access to dental care for low-income persons is a painfully persistent social and moral problem in Wisconsin communities and throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS few dentists accept Medicaid and low-income persons as patients because the Medicaid reimbursement rate is 38% of cost in Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS dental neglect results in serious pain and suffering, costly use of emergency rooms, children’s loss of school time, loss of adult work time and negative effects on general health, e.g., diabetes, heart and lung disease and possible low birth weight babies, and

WHEREAS the solution to this problem appears to be a legislative one, namely to raise the Medicaid dental reimbursement rate to 75% of cost, possibly to be financed by a tax of two cents per can of soda sold in Wisconsin,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church take a position favoring increasing the dental Medicaid reimbursement rate to 75% of cost, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ask all Wisconsin state legislators and the Governor of Wisconsin to pass legislation (Wisconsin Dental Association’s “Two Cents for Tooth Sense” Bill, which is **Assembly Bill 1168**) raising the dental Medicaid reimbursement rate, thereby effecting an increase in the number of dentists who are willing to provide dental care to low income persons.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 10: The Wellness Covenant

Submitted by: Board of Ordained Ministry

WHEREAS, the “Shema” requires the wellness of all people (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) which Jesus reaffirmed (Matthew 22:37), and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry upholds the wellness of all people, (2004 Book of Discipline, ¶162. III. I and 162. III. T), and

WHEREAS members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, out of concern our health, and in recognition of the increasing costs of health care, have made a commitment to a healthy lifestyle by adopting the following “Wellness Covenant,” and

WHEREAS we believe that this kind of commitment will greatly benefit all members of the Wisconsin Conference,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Wisconsin Annual Conference encourages all members of the Annual Conference, both lay and clergy, to become better stewards of the wondrous gifts and graces God has entrusted unto us for ministry by increasing our attention to our spiritual and physical health.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in gratitude for the investment God has entrusted to us, we encourage all members of the Annual Conference, both lay and clergy, to covenant to the following:

- Physical exercise three times weekly,
- Careful attention to healthy and balanced diet,
- Regular spiritual/devotional times and fulfillment of self determined “spiritual disciplines”
- Participation in a relationship of **support and** accountability for all the above
- **Observe a regular Sabbath**

Conference Action: Approved as amended

Action Item 11: Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Wisconsin Conference

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

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which the Conference is a part, has and in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”), and

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation, and

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service, and

WHEREAS the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the year 2007 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy person; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergy person’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/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 rental/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 12: 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 2007 shall be \$594.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 13: 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%;

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;

WHEREAS the cost of living factor established by the U.S. Government for Social Security purposes in 2006 is 4.1%, the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation is asking for a one-year suspension of the part of Rule 110.1.0 that states “plus 1%”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Minimum Compensation for Conference members serving full time for 2007 shall be \$32,088. The Minimum Compensation for Local Pastors serving full time shall be \$28,242. 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 \$24,129.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 14: Resolution on 2006 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 2006 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 (GBOPH 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 2006 Formal Funding Plan and be published in the 2006 Conference Yearbook and Journal.

**WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2006**

Formal Funding Plan – Pre-1982 Pensions

2006 Past Service Rate (PSR) - \$571.00

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-1/2004	\$57,900,340*
Present Value of Expected Future Benefits-1/2004	\$52,407,979*
Funded Status-1/2004	\$5,492,361*

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 1/1/06):

Deposit Account at General Board of Pensions	\$2,770,174
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Other Funds:

- The Wisconsin Annual Conference established the Permanent Pension Fund in 1969. The Permanent Pension Fund has a balance of \$2,448,208.
- The Wisconsin Annual Conference established the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund in 1983. The Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund has a balance of \$1,075,591.
- 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 2006 Actuarial Valuation.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 15: Resolution Regarding Funding New Clergy Retirement Security Program

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

Information:

As you may know, in 2007 there will be a new pension benefit. The current benefit is:

- ◆ Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) – Contributions equal 11% of plan compensation, but no more than 11% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). The DAC is \$52,394 in 2006. Our Conference Average Compensation (CAC) is \$49,896 in 2006. There are 121 clergy who have the maximum contribution made on their behalf.

- ◆ Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) – The premium equals 4.4% of plan compensation, except for those at less than 60% of the DAC and part time Elders, for whom it is 3.3% of the DAC. CPP is a death and disability benefit program, but also includes MPP funding for those with plan compensation below the DAC.

The new benefit (Clergy Retirement Security Program or CRSP) will be:

- ◆ CRSP Defined Benefit (DB) – The benefit will be a pension in the amount of 1.25% of the DAC times years of service beginning in 2007. The General Board of Pensions has told us the required Conference contribution amount for 2007 will be \$1,818,000 for all covered clergy in the Wisconsin Annual Conference

- ◆ CRSP Defined Contribution (DC) – Contributions equal 3% of plan compensation.

- ◆ CPP – The 2007 premium will be 3% of plan compensation.

We compare the costs of the current and new programs as follows:

Wisconsin Conference UMC Comparison of Estimated 2005 Pension Funding Amounts			
	Current (2005)	CRSP (projected to 2005)	Increase
Defined Contribution	\$1,703,000	\$504,000	
Defined Benefit		1,714,000	
CPP	740,000	504,000	
Total	\$2,443,000	\$2,722,000	\$279,000

The actual “increase” in 2007 is expected to be higher than \$279,000 since plan compensation is increasing at 3% to 4% a year.

If we assume a 3% annual increase in plan compensation, the increase for 2007 (vs. what the current benefit would have cost) will be \$297,000.

Surplus in Pre-82 Pension Plan:

We have surplus in the Pre-82 Pension Plan – as reported by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This statement means that the assets in the Wisconsin Annual Conference’s portion of the plan exceed the estimated liability of the Wisconsin Annual Conference’s portion of the plan. The projected values for 2007 are shown below:

- ◆ Assets: \$66.0 million
- ◆ Liabilities: 52.8 million
- ◆ Surplus: 13.2 million
- ◆ Ratio of Assets to Liabilities: 125%

The General Board uses a “rough rule of thumb” that assets of 120% of liabilities should provide good protection against unexpected changes in actuarial projections.

Available Funds:

In addition to the surplus in the Pre-82 Pension Plan there are some funds available that were expressly given for retiree benefits. The funds and their approximate balances at December 31, 2005:

- ◆ Deposit Account: \$2.8 million

These next two funds are used to pay a portion of retiree health premiums, but they are available to support pensions if necessary.

- ◆ Ministerial Pension Fund: \$1.08 million
- ◆ Permanent Pension Fund: \$2.45 million

Proposed Use of Surplus:

The Conference Joint Board recommends that we use our Pre-82 surplus to spread the effect of the cost increase due to the new pension plan over 5 years. We would use surplus to pay 90% of the increased cost in 2007, 70% in 2008, 50% in 2009, 30% in 2010 and 10% in 2011. This recommendation means the following approximate payment from surplus by year. These values assume a 3% annual increase in plan compensation.

Wisconsin Annual Conference Proposal to Allocate Pre-82 Surplus to CRSP	
Year	Estimated Subsidy from Pre-82 Surplus
2007	\$267,000
2008	214,000
2009	157,000
2010	97,000
2011	33,000
Total	\$768,000

The actual amounts needed may vary somewhat from these levels. The resolution to give authority to the Conference Joint Board to take these steps limits the maximum amount of surplus to \$800,000, while setting a number of other conditions so that any use of surplus does not harm the ability to pay pensions to current retirees.

Payment by Church:

Churches will be charged for their portion of the Conference's cost based on a percentage of total plan compensation. Total plan compensation includes:

- ◆ Cash salary
- ◆ Housing allowance/parsonage
- ◆ Church payments for the pastor's portion of health insurance

Any church whose pastor's present plan compensation is greater than the DAC will see a greater than average increase in the cost of pension plus CPP, since the present MPP pension contribution is limited to 11% of the DAC. These pastors will see an increase in their projected pension benefit under CRSP.

Resolution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation (Joint Board) is authorized to transfer surplus funds from the Pre-82 Pension Plan (also known as Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan) to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) under the following conditions:

- ◆ The transfers may occur during 2007 through 2011 (five (5) years)
- ◆ The transfers are intended to smooth the change in the total Wisconsin Conference pension contribution from the Ministerial Pension Plan, in place through 2006 to the Clergy Retirement Security Program, which begins in 2007.
- ◆ The total transfer over the five (5) years can be no more than \$800,000.
- ◆ The goal is to maintain the ratio of the assets to the liabilities in the Pre-82 Plan (as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) to be greater than 120%.
- ◆ If the ratio of the assets to the liabilities in the Pre-82 Plan (as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) is less than 115%, then no transfer may occur.
- ◆ If the ratio of the assets to the liabilities in the Pre-82 Plan (as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) is less than 120%, then the Joint Board may authorize a transfer only if it believes the reduction below 120% is temporary, and only on a 75% vote of the Joint Board.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 16: 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 is respectfully submitted for consideration at the 2006 session, and come with the support of the committee except as noted.

Brian Armstrong, Chairperson

Explanation of methods used to identify changes:

Dash-Underlined characters refer to deletions:

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Underlined and bold characters refer to additions or corrections:

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Revision Item #1: the recommendation of the Program and Arrangements Committee to include the volunteer position of “Childcare” into Rule 3.3.9.a.

3.3.9 Program and Arrangements Committee (§608.2)

- a. The Conference Nominating Committee shall nominate one member of the Conference from each of the four regions: Capital/Coulee, Chippewa/Heartland, Metro North/South, and Nicolet/Winnebago.

There shall be one youth representative from the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

There shall be nine members-at-large selected by the Program and Arrangements committee who shall have responsibility for the following areas:

Hospitality

Worship

Displays/Exhibits

Childcare

EMT's

Special Meals

Agenda

Registrar

Local Arrangements

Technology

The ex-officio members of the Committee shall be:

The Bishop

Ministry and Outreach Director

Conference Communications Coordinator

Conference Youth Coordinator

Conference Lay Leader

Conference Secretary

Advisory: Conference Service Center Department Manager.

Recommendation for Revision Item #1: The change will provide for the coordination of childcare with the Wisconsin Annual Conference program. The change also meets the growing need of including children and members with children into the life of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. The Rules Committee recommends acceptance of this addition to the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Revision Item #2: Conference Staff and District Superintendent Housing Allowance

The Conference Housing Allowance Task Force has made five recommendations to our Wisconsin Annual Conference and submitted them for review by the Rules Committee in a document called, "Report of the Housing Allowance Task Force." These recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation #1 – Housing Allowances for District Superintendents

10.7.2 "The **Base** Housing Allowance, which is to be paid in addition to salary, is \$14,000 per annum unless otherwise provided shall be set at 35% of the Conference Average Compensation."

Recommendation for Recommendation #1: The term, "base," conforms to the tax code and salary package language used by the Wisconsin Annual Conference. The change from a fixed housing allowance to the financial formula language will provide affordable housing for the District Superintendents for the future. The Rules Committee recommends to the Wisconsin Annual Conference the adoption of the above changes to rule 10.7.2.

Recommendation #2 – Housing Allowances for Conference Staff Who Are Clergy

60.14.2 A housing or rental allowance shall be negotiated between the pastor and congregation in consultation with the district superintendent (where applicable), or in the case of a Conference staff person or district superintendent, with the approval of the appointee, the Conference trustees, and the cabinet. **Full-time clergy serving on the Conference staff shall receive the same Base Housing Allowance as the District Superintendents.**

Recommendation for "Recommendation #2": The addition to rule 60.14.2, noted above in the underlined and bold print, provides clarity and equality regarding base housing support for full-time clergy serving the Conference as staff members. The Rules Committee recommends to the Wisconsin Annual Conference the adoption of the above changes to rule 60.14.2.

Recommendation #3 – Concerning Conference Staff Who Are Lay Employees

60.14.1 All pastors serving full-time in local churches, and all Conference **clergy** staff members and district superintendents shall be provided either a parsonage or housing allowance.

Recommendation for Recommendation #3: The addition of the term, "clergy," provides clarity for the intent of this rule. The Rules Committee recommends to the Wisconsin Annual Conference the adoption of the above changes to rule 60.14.1.

Recommendation #4 – Concerning Negotiation of Housing Allowances

60.14.2 A housing or rental allowance shall be negotiated between the pastor and congregation in consultation with the district superintendent (where applicable), or in the case of a Conference **clergy** staff person or district superintendent, with the approval of the appointee, the Conference trustees, the Personnel Committee, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the cabinet.

Recommendation for Recommendation #4: The addition of the term, “clergy,” provides clarity for the intent of this rule. In addition, the deletion of “the Conference trustees” and the inclusion of “the Personnel Committee, the Council on Finance and Administration,” affirms the appropriate role and practice of those two committees. The Trustees handle property issues rather than compensation. During the discussion, the Rules Committee members expressed the support and encouragement for the Annual Conference to consider equity among the clergy and laity salary packages. The Rules Committee recommends to the Wisconsin Annual Conference the adoption of the above changes to rule 60.14.2.

Recommendation #5 – Concerning Phase-in (If Necessary)

If the CF&A accepts the recommendations above, then the Housing Allowances for eight clergy persons would increase from \$14,000 to \$17,986. This is a total increase of \$31,888. If this cannot be absorbed in the Conference Budget in a single year, we recommend that the CF&A use a portion of the escrowed funds from the sale of the District Parsonages to phase in the increase over a couple years. Since the inflation adjustment to the Housing Allowance is long overdue, the District Superintendents and Conference Staff should not have to bear the cost of a delayed phase-in. Additionally, it would better if the formula for setting the Housing Allowance did not have to be made more complicated by including phase-in language.

Recommendation for Recommendation #5: This item contains no additional changes to the Wisconsin Annual Conference Rules. The Rules Committee has no action to take and refers action on this item to the CF&A and the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Revision Item #3: Submission by Jane Daniels, Conference Benefits Officer: Correction of Pension Policy item 100.1.0 – 100.1.5 (*2005 Yearbook and Journal*, Volume One, page 320-321).

The Old Rule

100.0.0 Pension Policy

100.1.0 Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

100.1.1 Contribution Base. The Contribution Base shall be the Participant’s Compensation, not to exceed the Denominational Average Compensation.

100.1.2 Church Contribution Rate. The Church Contribution Rate shall be 11% of the Contribution Base.

100.1.3 Funding. Funding for the MPP is by direct payment of each charge to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

100.1.4 **Hardship Cases.** The Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation will review needed financial assistance in the event of financial hardships.

The Proposed New Rule

100.0.0 Pension Policy

100.1.0 **Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)** effective Jan. 1, 2007, as mandated adopted by the 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church

100.1.1 **Contribution Base** shall be the Participant's Plan Compensation, as defined by CRSP.

100.1.2 **Church contribution rate for the Defined Contribution** component of CRSP shall be 3% of the Participant's Plan Compensation.

100.1.3 **Church contribution rate for the Defined Benefit component** of CRSP shall be an additional percentage of the Participant's Plan Compensation, set annually by the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance, and Equitable Compensation, to meet the annual amount billed to the Wisconsin Annual Conference by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to fund the Defined Benefit component.

100.1.4 **Funding for CRSP** is by direct payment by each charge to the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

100.1.5 **Hardship Cases.** The Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance, and Equitable Compensation will review needed financial assistance in the event of financial hardships.

Recommendation for Revision #3: The rewritten rule section on pensions updates the language to the current policy of the United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the current *Book of Discipline*. The Rules Committee recommends adoption of this rule change to the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Action Item 17: Resolution to Support the UMC Global AIDS Fund

Submitted by: Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS, for twenty years the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has spoken with prophetic compassion to the global issue of HIV/AIDS, and

WHEREAS, according UNAIDS, 40.3 million persons worldwide are infected with the HIV virus and approximately 600,000 children each year are infected; 13 million children have been orphaned due to the pandemic, 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, and

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, and

WHEREAS, this goal equates to one dollar per member of the United Methodist Church over the quadrennium, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conference commits to raising one dollar per church member of the Wisconsin Conference to be remitted by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the General Council of Finance and Administration for the UMC Global AIDS Fund.

Conference Action: Withdrawn by Board of Church and Society. This resolution was approved last year.

Action Item 18: Resolution on Global Poverty

Submitted by: Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS Jesus saw his ministry as one of bringing ‘good news to the poor.... proclaiming release to the captives... recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’⁽¹⁾ and

WHEREAS in 2001 40 % of the world (or 2.7 billion people) live on less than \$2 per day⁽²⁾, and

WHEREAS 6 million children in developing countries each year suffer from hunger related illness, even though the world produces enough food to feed everyone⁽³⁾, and

WHEREAS in Matthew 25 Jesus summed up how you could tell the righteous from the unrighteous by whether we have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, cared for the sick and visited those in prison⁽⁴⁾, and

WHEREAS in 2000 the U.S. and 188 other countries agreed to work towards eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015 to help mark global progress towards ending poverty⁽⁵⁾, and

WHEREAS governments, including our own, need to be pressured to make good on these promises and to allocate funding for fighting global poverty, and

WHEREAS as of 2006 our Federal Budget allocates 40 times more for defense than for fighting world hunger (400 billion vs. 10 billion)⁽⁶⁾, and

WHEREAS it IS possible to reduce global poverty (for example, from 1981 to 2001 the proportion of people living on \$1 a day or less was cut in half)⁽⁷⁾,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference vow to take at least one action to help “make poverty history.” These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Join the One campaign (an effort to rally Americans to fight extreme poverty and the global AIDS epidemic) (www.one.org);
- Write a letter to President Bush and your congressional representatives urging funding of the Millennium Development Goals (for more information go to <http://www.bread.org/take-action/offering-of-letters-kit/>);
- Involve your congregation in Bread for the World’s 2006 Offering of Letters Campaign “One Spirit One Will Zero Poverty” (see above or go to Board of Church and Society Display Table for more information)
- Join The Micah Challenge, “a global Christian campaign” whose aim is “to deepen our engagement with the poor; and to challenge leaders to achieve the Millennium Development goals and so halve absolute poverty by 2015” sponsored by the World Evangelical Alliance (micahchallenge.org);

- Share information with your local church about the Millennium Development Goals and how working together we are finding solutions to the problem of extreme global poverty; (http://www.un.org/millennium_goals/ or contact Liberato Bautista, General Board of Church and Society, United Nations and International Affairs 212.682.3633 lbautista@umc-gbcs.org).

1. Luke 4:18-19
2. World Bank Development Indicators 2005
3. <http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/>
4. Matthew 25:31-46
5. Millennium Development Goals are 1. Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day, and reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger 2. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. 3. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. 4. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five 5. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality rate. 6. Halve and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. 7. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. 8. Develop a global partnership for development which is rule-based, predictably and nondiscriminatory. It includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction -- nationally and internationally.
6. truemajority.org/oreos
7. World Bank Development Indicators 2005 For more information go to www.bread.org/take-action/offering-of-letters-kit/facts-hunger-and-poverty.html

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 19: Resolution to Support “Treatment Alternatives and Diversion” (TAD) (Formerly “Treatment Instead of Prison” (TIP))

Submitted by: Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church follows the examples of Jesus (Matthew 25) and the Wisconsin Conference has sought to understand how to implement “restorative justice” in our communities, and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin State Legislature in June 2005 passed a bill attached to the 2005-07 Budget, authorizing counties to seek funding for community-based alcohol and other drug addiction (AODA) treatment for non-violent offenders whose underlying issue is substance abuse addiction, and

WHEREAS several counties in Wisconsin have already initiated diversionary programs such as comprehensive assessment policies to evaluate offenders, day report centers and drug treatment courts, most counties still lack services for non-violent persons in the judicial system who need treatment, and

WHEREAS programs that divert persons in the judicial system to AODA treatment with incentives and sanctions can cost \$8,100 per person per year, this is far less than the incarceration rate of \$28,622 per year and more humane because families can remain intact, and offenders can keep their jobs, and

WHEREAS counties in Wisconsin are eligible to submit proposals to the Office of Justice Assistance in Wisconsin by July 6, 2006, to secure funding for programs that would implement (or more fully implement) community-based treatment as an alternative to incarceration, and

WHEREAS as people of faith we believe that life is sacred, and that every human being is redeemable, and we walk with many people for whom treatment works and who are now leading positive, productive lives because they had the opportunity to experience a quality drug treatment program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we praise God for the thousands of persons in recovery--pastors, teachers, craftspersons, ex-offenders, and people from all walks of life-- who are living among us in our congregations and communities, contributing their gifts to the common good of all, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and their members be encouraged to link up with groups that are working to implement "Treatment Instead of Prison" programs throughout Wisconsin, such as WISDOM, 3767 East Underwood Avenue, Cudahy, WI 53110, Joseph Ellwanger (414-736-2480), www.tipwis.org or Wisconsin Council of Churches, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and their members encourage leaders in their respective counties to submit a "Treatment Alternatives and Diversions" proposal to the Office of Justice Assistance in Wisconsin by July 6, 2006, or to create a Coordinating Council which could prepare a proposal for consideration in 2007. www.tipwis.org

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 20: Resolution Supporting the Principle of National Legislation Providing Universal Health Care

Submitted by: Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS The United Methodist Church has long asserted in its Social Principles that health care is a right: The 2004 *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (§162T) states *Right to Health Care* --"Health is a condition of the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being, and we view it as a responsibility-- public and private. Health care is a basic human right... The right to health care includes care for persons with brain diseases, neurological conditions or physical disabilities, who must be afforded the same access to health care as all other persons in our communities. It is unjust to construct or perpetuate barriers to physical or mental wholeness or full participation in community," and

WHEREAS the preamble of the United States Constitution guarantees that the government will "promote the general welfare," and

WHEREAS the current approach to health care as a market commodity rather than a public good has left 43 million people in this country, including 9 million children uninsured. Millions more are underinsured with soaring costs threatening health care of the middle class and all but the very rich. While spending 50-200% more per person on health care than other developed nation, our country ranks 20th in terms of longevity, infant mortality, and number of citizens properly immunized, and

WHEREAS the pharmaceutical industry, realizing a profit margin exceeding any other corporate industry, together with the insurance industry, hospitals, and organized medicine have enormous lobbying power and a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Self-advocacy for the market by these entities impedes change by perpetuating myths regarding access, affordability, and effectiveness among others, of a single payer system, and

WHEREAS universal access to health care without delay serves the community interest as well as the individual in terms of the spread of disease and shared economic and social consequences of illness, disability, and untimely death. Community interest assumes the concept of one “risk pool” where all consumers are included and none are excluded, and

WHEREAS universal health care is affordable through an equitable tax system, the elimination of waste (administratively more with private insurance than Medicare and Medicaid), and an accountable, transparent system that makes use of scientific evidence, ethics, alternative treatments, and community values to decide what is affordable as a basic insurance package, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church advocate for the principle of universal health care beginning by educating ourselves and our churches on this issue, supporting organizations that work for advocacy of the same, and urge the drafting of legislation to bring universal health care to the forefront of public debate.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 21: Resolution on the Proposed Marriage Amendment To the Wisconsin Constitution

Submitted by: Board of Church and Society

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, ¶161 C)

While at the same time insisting that:

“Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation—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, ¶162 H) and

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 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,” and

WHEREAS the first sentence of the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution is not necessary to define marriage as the 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 human and civil rights of persons of all sexual orientations recognized by the United Methodist Social Principles (see above), 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 urge its clergy and lay members to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urge its congregations to hold adult education forums before the fall election for the purpose of informed and respectful dialogue with Wisconsin citizens on all sides of this issue.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 22: Resolution Concerning The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC)

Submitted by: Conference Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS our brother, Fred Brancel, fellow Wisconsin United Methodist, former United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries missionary to Africa, former director of Whispering Pines United Methodist Camp, and active member of University UMC-Madison has always witnessed for social justice in his life; and

WHEREAS Fred Brancel is serving at this time of Annual Conference his federal prison sentence at Oxford Correctional Institute for his non-violent protest at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, GA (formerly known as the School of the Americas-SOA/WHINSEC); and

WHEREAS in Congress there is a bill, HR 1217 to suspend operations at SOA/WHINSEC and to investigate the development and use of the “torture manuals;” and

WHEREAS the bill currently has over 122 bipartisan co-sponsors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we commend our brother Fred Brancel and the other 32 activists of 2005, whose brave, non-violent witness protests torture, and legislators who seek to end complicity with the spread of torture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we join their call for the passage of HR 1217 and the suspension of operations at SOA/WHINSEC.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 23: RESOLUTION on the AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE

Submitted by: Rick Kindschi, Lay Member of Annual Conference

WHEREAS we, as United Methodists, “believe the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶161A), and

WHEREAS “we affirm the importance of both fathers and mothers for all children” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶161A), and

WHEREAS “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;” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶161C), and

WHEREAS “we support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶161C), and

WHEREAS, due to action by the 2005 Wisconsin Annual Conference, we, as United Methodists, are officially listed as a “Faith Voice” declaring its opposition to the constitutional marriage amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman and posted online at <http://www.fairwisconsin.com/voicesforno/index.html>, and

WHEREAS, based on our denominational statements and Biblical teaching, we believe it is important for us to maintain the integrity of heterosexual, monogamous marriage for the well-being of our society,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2006 Wisconsin Annual Conference support the state legislature’s amendment to the Wisconsin constitution as we affirm marriage as being between one man and one woman;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference name and the link to our conference website be immediately removed from www.fairwisconsin.com.

Conference Action: This item was withdrawn from consideration by the author.

Action Item 24: 2007 Proposed Budget

Submitted by: Council on Finance and Administration

The 2007 Approved Budget is printed at the end of the “Action Items” Section.

Action Item 25: Resolution On The Discontinuance Of Gotham United Methodist Church, Gotham, Wisconsin

Submitted by: Cabinet and Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the Gotham United Methodist Church has had a long, rich heritage, being formed in Richland City around 1850, and being moved to its present location in Gotham, Wisconsin in 1890; and

WHEREAS, the Gotham Church has been a faithful, life-giving Church where people have come to know and experience God through the ministries of worship, mission, study, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, the Gotham Church has faithfully paid all apportionment payments through 2004, which has supported ministry around the world; and

WHEREAS, the sociology and culture of the Gotham community has changed, and the mobility of the people living there has also changed; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-five year period the membership of Gotham Church has decreased from 94 to 30—with only 8 members currently active—and the average worship attendance decreasing from 55 to 14; and

WHEREAS, at a church conference held on Sunday, January 22, 2006 the membership voted to discontinue the church effective May 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Gotham United Methodist Church have been assisted in transferring their membership to other congregations of choice; and

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the Gotham United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the consent to discontinue has been granted by presiding Bishop Linda Lee, by unanimous consent of the District Superintendents 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 37th session, June 11-14, 2006 at Middleton, Wisconsin, declares the Gotham United Methodist Church discontinued as of May 31, 2006 and that all historical documents be filed with the Conference Archives in Sun Prairie, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the net proceeds of the sale of the church property and all remaining assets be first used to cover any remaining local obligations, and then be invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc., to be administered by the Board of Congregation, Parish and Circuit Development for the starting of a new church/faith community in the Gotham area or, should this not be deemed practical in the next five year period, any assets, including real or personal property, and money, be used toward Circuit Ministry by Circuit #51 or other appropriate Circuit that would provide Christian outreach or care to the Gotham community.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 26: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Martell United Methodist Church, Hammond, WI.

Submitted by: Cabinet and Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church of Martell has served in faithful ministry for 149 years in the Martell township of Pierce County Wisconsin; and,

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

WHEREAS, at a church conference held on September 15, 2005 the members voted to discontinue; and,

WHEREAS, the Chippewa District Committee on Church Location and Building, the Conference Board of Trustees, area presiding Bishop Linda Lee, and the District Superintendents have approved the discontinuance of Martell United Methodist Church; and,

WHEREAS, proper care has been given to records and other legal and official documents; and,

WHEREAS, pastoral care been given to the members of Martell United Methodist Church and efforts have been made to transfer membership to area United Methodist churches; and,

WHEREAS, the property of the Martell United Methodist Church will be donated on June 30, 2006, to the Township of Martell for use as Town Hall and Community Center; and,

WHEREAS, any monies remaining in the Martell United Methodist Church account will go toward unpaid apportionments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in the 37th session, June 11-14, 2006, at Middleton Wisconsin, declares Martell United Methodist Church of Martell, Wisconsin (Pierce County), discontinued as of June 30, 2006, and direct the Chippewa-Heartland District Superintendent to be the officer of the Conference to implement this action.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 27: Resolution on U.S. Immigration Policy

Submitted by:

Immigration Task Force, Wisconsin Annual Conference

Commission on Religion and Race, Wisconsin Annual Conference

Board of Global Ministries, Wisconsin Annual Conference

Board of Church and Society, Wisconsin Annual Conference

Whereas the U.S. has been a nation of immigrants from its inception, sustaining in its Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal, endowed by their creator with inalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

Whereas historically our nation's immigration policies have been inconsistent, quite often influenced by racial prejudice and political ideology; and

Whereas the recent debate has already triggered massive raids, and practices by law enforcers, bringing upon the nation a cloud of animosity, fear, and confusion; and

Whereas the Holy Scriptures tell the story of a God who calls and sends out nations to establish justice, mercy, and love throughout the world; and Gen. 12:1-3, 12:2-3, 18:4,5, Deut. 10:19; and

Whereas the call to welcome the stranger and to defend the sojourners living in our midst, providing them all with a place of rest, food, and hospitality is at the core of our responsibility as people of faith, given the fact that we were foreigners at another time; and

Whereas this biblical model of hospitality and treatment should inform our daily activities as a Christian community and how we care for those who have come to this country documented or undocumented; and

Whereas being an undocumented person is not a moral crime, nor is caring and giving shelter to the undocumented; and

Whereas the *2004 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* has declared our denomination's position on immigration reform (No. 118) stating that,

“Undocumented persons possess certain inalienable rights named and lifted in the International Declaration on Human Rights, the United Nations Charters, as well as the documents concerning immigration of the Geneva Convention, and the Constitution of the United States Bill of Rights;” and

Whereas our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ himself, son of Mary and Joseph, was forced to seek asylum and live as an immigrant in a foreign country until danger against first-born Jewish babies came to an end; and

Whereas we have been called to embody the teachings of Jesus when he says in Matthew 25:37, “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.”

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Annual Conference calls on the U.S. Congress and the President to adopt comprehensive immigration reform that will provide an opportunity for all undocumented immigrants, who are contributing to this country through their work, to meet reasonable criteria and over time, pursue a path to legalization and citizenship. (We support earned legalization, not amnesty);

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to reform our family-based immigration system to significantly reduce waiting times for separated families who currently wait many years to be reunited;

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to create legal avenues for migrant workers and their families to enter the U.S. in a safe, legal, and orderly manner with their rights fully protected;

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to develop policies that are consistent with humanitarian values; treat all individuals with respect; allow the authorities to identify and prevent terrorists and dangerous criminals from entering the country; and bolster our national security through effective enforcement, including the protection of individuals and organizations who act as Good Samaritans without regard to the immigration status of the persons they serve; and

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to safeguard asylum seekers and ensure an opportunity to prove they deserve asylum; and

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to ensure that the rights and dignity of all immigrants and foreign visitors are fully respected.

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to ensure protection of the basic human rights of immigrants and refugees, such as the right to K-12 education and due process of law.

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to grant permanent residence to college-bound students who are children of temporary workers.

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to create a special program to enable immigrant workers to fill all work areas, so workers will be allowed to work up to six (6) years in the U.S. and will be able to apply for permanent status after four (4) years of work.

Be it further resolved that we call on our elected leaders to create an earned legalization program for the 10-12 million immigrants currently living and working in the U.S.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the senators of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois, and to the president; adding that the Wisconsin Annual Conference does not support immigration legislation that:

- Expands detention beds
- Increases mandatory detentions
- Expands the definition of aggravated felony
- Turns the police and National Guard into immigration agents
- Changes the law around the power of the court to review immigration cases
- Expands expedited removal
- Overturns Supreme Court case law on indefinite detention
- Condone the mistreatment of undocumented workers

Conference Action: Approved 387 Yes, 300 No, 40 Abstentions

Action Item 28: Annual Conference Director of Young Adult Ministry
Submitted by: Ken Rheingans, Lay Member of Annual Conference

WHEREAS, there is a lack of young adult ministry on the local, circuit, and annual conference level in Wisconsin as well as a lack of young adults active in local churches, and

WHEREAS, local churches and circuits are in need of expertise and guidance in creating and implementing effective young adult ministry programs, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Annual Conference has been unable to provide sufficient young adult ministry expertise and guidance due to limited staff, resources, and funding, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin United Methodist Church seeks to affirm that young adults are vital members and future members of the Church,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Wisconsin Annual Conference by February 2007, will create a new staff position of Director of Young Adult Ministry, solely committed to assisting local churches, circuits, and the Annual Conference in developing effective ministries for 18 to 30 year old young adults.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 2007 funding for this position and related expenses will come from reallocating all funds currently planned in the 2007 budget for membership dues designated for the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference commits to asking each local church to raise one dollar per member, to be remitted to the conference treasurer by the 2006 Fiscal Year End, for funding of this position and related expenses for 2007.

Conference Action: Referred to Conference Personnel Committee and Conference Young Adult Ministries Council

Action Item 29: Council on Finance and Administration - Young Adult Representation

Submitted by: Ken Rheingans, Lay Member of Annual Conference

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin United Methodist Church seeks to affirm that young adults are vital members and future members of the Church, and

WHEREAS, not all planned Annual Conference ministries and programs are applicable to all age groups, and

WHEREAS, additional emphasis and focus needs to be placed on determining funding priorities within the Annual Conference to insure that young adult ministry needs are being adequately met,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Wisconsin Annual Conference will in 2006, expand the current voting membership of the Council on Finance and Administration to include two 18 to 30 year old young adult laity members.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 30: A Resolution to Declare The Committee On Hispanic/Latino Ministries as a Standing Committee of the Wisconsin Annual Conference

Submitted by: Committee On Hispanic/Latino Ministries

WHEREAS the Almighty God is the originator of all families including the Hispanic/Latino families (Ephesians 3: 14) and wants to bless them (Genesis 12: 3b); that Jesus' mandate is to go and disciple people of all ethnic groups ("*nations*," Matthew 20:19); that it was the Apostle Paul's desire to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to Spanish-speaking people (Romans 15: 23, 24); and that God doesn't want any one to perish but all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3: 9);

WHEREAS the 2000 United States Census Bureau Report estimates that the Wisconsin Hispanic/Latino population will continue to increase (2001: 198,634; 2006: 225,675; 2010: 247,308);

WHEREAS "*The Hispanic (/Latino) population is not a racial group, nor does it share a common language or culture,*" that "*The single overarching trait that all Hispanics (/Latinos) share in common is a connection by ancestry to Latin America,*" and that, as a matter of fact, Hispanic/Latinos, as a group, are multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-national, and multi-lingual (Hispanics: A People in Motion, The Pew Hispanic Research Center, 2005, p.p. 3);

WHEREAS the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church mandated that every Annual Conference in the United States shall develop a strategic, comprehensive plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry within its boundaries by December 31, 2006 (*The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2004*, p.p. 140);

WHEREAS the 2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church mandates that "*All lay missionaries must follow the guidelines established by the National Committee on Hispanic Ministries of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries and may be certified by their annual conference.*" (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2004*, par. 271);

WHEREAS the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries “*calls on each annual conference to organize a Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries,*” that reflects the ethnic diversity of the annual conference (Hispanic/Latino Ministry of The United Methodist Church Booklet, 2004-2008, p.p. 29);

WHEREAS The Wisconsin Annual Conference has been actively involved in Hispanic/Latino ministries since its creation in 1969; has currently a Committee On Hispanic/Latino Ministries under the Board of Congregation and Parish Development and Circuit Ministry; and having now six chartered churches, four new church starts, 457 Hispanic/Latino members, and 17 Hispanic/Latino clergy (2005 Wisconsin Annual Conference Journal, pp. 101, 426);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by The Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to declare the existing Committee On Hispanic/Latino Ministries to be a standing committee of The Wisconsin Annual Conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by The Wisconsin Annual Conference that the purpose and function of such Committee On Hispanic/Latino Ministries shall include but not be limited to:

1. Interpreting and advocating for Hispanic/Latino ministries;
2. Planning, developing and implementing a strategic, comprehensive plan for Hispanic/Latino ministries;
3. Training lay and clergy leadership for Hispanic/Latino ministry;
4. Securing and providing resources; and
5. Monitoring, supporting and evaluating the Wisconsin Annual Conference Hispanic/Latino ministries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by The Wisconsin Annual Conference that the Committee On Hispanic/Latino Ministries be composed of but not be limited to the following members:

- one representative of four local Hispanic/Latino ministries 4
- one representative of each region of the Conference 4
- one representative of four ethnic caucuses 4
- one representative of the Board of Discipleship; the Board of Congregational, Parish Development and Circuit Ministries; the Board of Global Ministries; and the Board On Ordained Ministry 4
- one representative of the Conference staff 1
- one representative of the appointive Cabinet 1
- three members at large 3

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by The Wisconsin Annual Conference that \$15,000.00 — from the Congregational and Parish Development’s Racial Ethnic/Multicultural and Lay Missioner line items of the 2007 Wisconsin Annual Conference proposed budget be allocated to the Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries for its operation in 2007.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$5,000 be removed from the 'Racial Ethnic/Multicultural' line item of the Board of Congregation, Parish and Circuit Development, and that an amount of \$5,000 be added to the 2007 proposed budget in a line item called 'Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries.'

Conference Action: Approved as amended

Floor Motion: **Respect Resolution**

Submitted by: **John Sumwalt, Clergy Member of the Annual Conference**

Whereas Wisconsin voters will be asked to vote this fall on amendments to the state constitution regarding the establishment of capital punishment and the definition of marriage:

Should the death penalty be enacted in the State of Wisconsin for cases involving a person who is convicted of first degree intentional homicide and the conviction is supported by DNA evidence.

"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." and

Whereas election rhetoric has become more and more divisive in recent years with misinformation, attack ads and emotionally charged language that adds to the red state, blue state, culture wars thinking that further polarizes our communities; and

Whereas we may strongly disagree with each other about these and other issues of our time; we who love Jesus, follow his teachings, and value the unity of the church, are bound together by our baptismal vows to "remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world;" and

Whereas, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, "...in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's self, ...and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us"; it is incumbent on disciples of Jesus to encourage civility in public debate, to model the way of love that is patient and kind, "is not arrogant or rude, (and) ...does not insist on its own way"; and

Whereas "none of us has a corner on understanding God's word, and all of us benefit from listening to one another as we seek to discern" God's will in our lives,

Be it resolved that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church invite congregations and circuits to find ways to influence a positive, considerate tone of mutual respect in public debate and create opportunities for voters to have respectful dialog about these proposed amendments by:

- Avoiding rancorous debate and divisive votes in our own conference and local church meetings.
- Sponsoring public forums in neutral settings like libraries and schools where informed speakers representing all sides are invited to present their positions in an atmosphere of openness where all attending have agreed to disagree respectfully.

- Recruiting volunteers in our circuits to send letters to the media calling for the elimination of attack ads and to every person running for public office and every special interest group sign asking them to forgo attack ads and all other kinds of negative campaigning.

Conference Action: Approved as Amended

Floor Motion: Resolution on Judicial Council Decision 1032

Submitted by: Jim Christensen, Clergy Member of the Annual Conference

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

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

WHEREAS, the UMC Bishops unanimously stated in a November 2, 2005 Council of Bishops Pastoral Letter that “homosexuality is not a barrier [for membership]...and... the General Conference has clearly spoken through the denomination’s Constitution on inclusiveness and justice for all as it relates to church membership”[1], and quoted from paragraph 161g of the *Book of Discipline*:’... “God’s grace is available to all, and we will seek to live together in Christian community. We implore families, and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons”; and

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

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

WHEREAS, John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you”; Mark 10:14 says “But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “let the children come to me; and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God’; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says “For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”; Galatians 3:28 says “There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”; and John 13:35 says “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2006 Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church declares that it believes Judicial Council Decision 1032 to be in error.

Conference Action: Defeated

Floor Motion: **Covenant of Affiliation between The United Methodist Hospitals Ministry and Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church**

Submitted by: **Health and Welfare Ministries Committee of the Board of Global Ministries**

The primary objective of the Covenant of Affiliation (Covenant) between the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church (Conference) and the United Methodist Hospitals Ministry (UMHM), a United Methodist health spiritual care 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 UMHM and the Conference.

Conference Expectations

1. Communicate to UMHM the requirements and changes in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (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 UMHM.
2. Communicate to UMHM 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.
3. Periodically review the relationship of the Conference and UMHM and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.
4. Advocate and promote UMHM’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, electronic or other means.
5. Encourage collaboration among health and welfare ministries, Conference entities, and local churches to respond to health and welfare needs within the Conference.

Make training resources available to the UMHM Chaplain and the UMHM’s committee members in mutually identified areas of interest, for example: (a) board membership and responsibilities; (b) planned giving; (c) providing spiritual life resources to clients; (d) connectionalism within The United Methodist Church; (e) strategic planning.

6. Assist UMHM in making high quality spiritual life resources available to its patients and their families.
7. Make available to UMHM: (1) advice and assistance with the UMHM’s recruitment of a new Chaplain when position becomes vacant; (2) information regarding the availability of grants; (3) information regarding general resources available through Conference staff and General Church boards and agencies; (4) assistance from the Conference foundation with wills, trusts, and other methods of planned giving; and (5) fair consideration of requests for conference wide fundraising appeals.

8. Give consideration to the financial needs of all Conference related health and welfare ministries in the Conference's annual budget setting process.

Have churches relating to UMHM annually report to the annual Church/Charge Conference their support (financial, promotion, volunteer, leadership, etc) of UMHM.

9. Celebrate annually at the Conference session the contribution of UMHM to the mission of the church.
10. Instruct the Conference District Superintendent of the Capital District to engage in a face-to-face conversation with the chairperson and/or Chaplain of UMHM at least once a year in order to be familiar with and supportive of the UMHM focus and outreach.
11. Inform, instruct and encourage pastors appointed in the Conference to be involved in developing an active relationship between their congregation, the Chaplain, and the UMHM as one of their church's health mission priorities.
12. Indemnify and hold the UMHM, harmless from and against any claims, causes of actions, and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which may arise from any UMHM operations.

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.

UMHM Expectations

1. Be guided in decision making by The United Methodist Social Principles (current edition), *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (current edition), and the investment policies 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 the use of the name "The United Methodist Church" and the "Cross and Flame" insignia of The United Methodist Church.
3. Periodically review the relationship of the Conference and UMHM and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.
4. Furnish to the Conference a mission statement and philosophy delineating the historic roots and heritage of the UMHM and provide and amendments and to update or certify it annually.
5. Inform the Annual Conference session whenever UMHM begins a new program of service in response to emerging trends and community needs, particularly initiatives related to racial/ethnic groups, people with disability conditions, the disenfranchised, and undocumented immigrants and the connection it provides United Methodists to faith and healing in the hospital setting.

6. Cooperate with the Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and congregations in the UMHM service area in creating new and expanded health and welfare ministries within the Conference.
7. Provide high quality spiritual life resources to UMHM patients, their families and clergy/congregations touched by this ministry.
8. Provide to the Conference for publication in the *Yearbook and Journal* an annual summary of operations and a financial statement including an annual audit.
9. Seek written approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration prior to engaging in conference-wide fund raising efforts.
10. Provide to the Committee the UMHM mission statement and other foundational statements and amendments made from time to time, and provide evidence in the promotional materials of the Ministry that it is identified a “Christian.”
11. Link UMHM to the Annual Conference session by electing to the UMHM Committee one or more clergy members of the Annual Conference and appoint a liaison to the Health and Welfare Committee. At least one third of the members of the UMHM Committee will be members of the United Methodist Church.
12. Encourage local United Methodist pastors and congregations to participate in UMHM programs and ministry through the Chaplain and to contribute to the funding of this ministry through the mission budget of the church and individual contributions.
13. 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 UMHM operations.
14. Carry professional and general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure UMHM, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims from third parties for activities undertaken by UMHM. (A part of the Annual Conference Ministry coverage.)
15. Provide to the Committee annually a list of names, addresses, and church affiliations (if known) of members of the UMHN committee.
16. Identify in promotional materials that UMHM is affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.
17. Provide to the Committee a dissolution clause for any real property of UMHM which is consistent with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (current edition).

Conference Action: Approved