

**RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REQUIRING ACTION
BY THE
2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

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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 winter or spring of 2010 for the purpose of interpreting the Conference camping and retreat program and for promoting the 2010 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 in the tradition of the connectional church that the fourth Sunday of September, September 27, 2009, or another Sunday designated by each local congregation, be designated United Methodist Women's Sunday in the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 5: United Methodist Youth Sunday
Submitted by: Conference Council on Youth Ministries

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 29th for this day in 2009, 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 6: Young Adult Task Force Resolution
Submitted by: Bishop's Young Adult Task Force

Whereas we acknowledge that young adult ministry takes place in an incredible variety of forms throughout the conference and wish to encourage existing and new ministries, and

Whereas we acknowledge that young adult ministry is as diverse as young adults in age range, life situation, and spiritual needs and that there is no clear cut model for how to be in ministry with young adults, and

Whereas we acknowledge that there is not a consistent presence of young adults throughout the churches of our conference and we desire to assist other conference ministries in reaching out to and including young adults in their midst.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Annual Conference and the local churches within Wisconsin may adopt the following framework to assist in young adult ministry.

Young Adult Ministry is about creating space for young adults to feel as though they have:

A place to belong:

A welcoming and all-inclusive place where everyone feels connected to a community.

A place to believe:

An open and encouraging place to discuss, share, learn, and question spirituality and the church in a meaningful way.

A place to matter:

A way to tangibly make a difference in the lives of others in our communities, conference, and world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local churches are encouraged to complete an assessment of their congregation's young adult ministry with a tool provided by the Youth and Young Adult office by December 31st, 2009 for the purpose of understanding the current state of young adult ministries in the Wisconsin Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth and Young Adult office of the Wisconsin Annual Conference in partnership with the Young Adult Task Force and the Board of Higher Education and Student Ministries will offer a training opportunity in the fall of 2009 to help equip local churches and ministries to understand the young adult ministry framework and develop ways to incorporate it into their ministries with young adults.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 7: *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 8: *Volunteers In Mission Recognition And Awareness Day*
Submitted by: *Wisconsin Volunteers in Mission*

BACKGROUND: The 1980 General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) officially sanctioned the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) and directed the General Board of Global Ministries to "affirm VIM as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement and devise appropriate structure to interpret and implement opportunities for volunteers in the global community" (§1302.14 Discipline). The 1988 General Conference suggested that "each annual conference name a VIM coordinator to work cooperatively with GBGM and the Jurisdictional UMVIM offices." The 1996 General Conference created the Mission Volunteers office within the General Board of Global Ministries to "assist in the guidance and placement of volunteers; in short term mission assignments." (§1312(5)). The 2000 General Conference recognized UMVIM as "one of the most dynamic mission outreach programs of the denomination today" (The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church; 2000, page 165). The 2004 General Conference authorized the establishment of a Volunteer In Mission Awareness Sunday in the Annual conferences. These actions clearly recognize the UMVIM program as a growing

force in promoting the church in general, Christianity in particular, and personal Christian service.

Resolution:

Whereas, the UMVIM program is truly a grassroots movement in allowing all persons of faith, laity and clergy alike, the opportunity to have a “hands on” experience and involvement in mission endeavors; and

Whereas, it is generally accepted that all persons cannot do everything, but that everyone can do something. The UMVIM program allows persons to offer physical support, prayer support, and/or financial support to the wide variety of programs that are designed to promote the many opportunities to utilize their many varied talents in direct service to the Kingdom of God; and

Whereas, Scripture requires us all to be active participants in the faith, to wit, “... and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8b, RSV) and “What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works.....So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:14, 17 RSV); and

Whereas, there are opportunities to serve locally, nationally, or even internationally, and the “hands on” opportunity truly changes a missionary’s perspective towards persons or cultures with different economic, ethnic, or political backgrounds; and

Whereas, the UMVIM program is one essential tool in helping to promote tolerance and understanding throughout all of God’s Kingdom, a tool that helps to bring a measure of relief to those in unfortunate circumstances wherever they are, and a tool that can help Christians to fulfill the mandate of Jesus as expressed in Matthew 25:34–46.

THEREFORE, the Annual Conference Volunteers In Mission coordinator and the North Central Jurisdiction Volunteers In Mission coordinator of the United Methodist Church requests that the Wisconsin Annual Conference recommend to all local churches in the Conference:

1. That a Sunday in September (the third Sunday is recommended) be set aside and declared Volunteers In Mission Awareness Day; and
2. That each local church with assistance of the conference UMVIM leadership, provide for UMVIM displays, information resources, solicit individual or group testimonies and/or develop other ways to celebrate the UMVIM movement in whatever fashion that best suits the local congregation; and
3. That local churches draw upon the available resources of the Conference UMVIM Coordinator to help make the day memorable, one of faith in action.
4. That an offering be taken on the designated UMVIM Awareness Sunday to support the Conference and Jurisdictional UMVIM offices and programs. (It is recommended that 70% of funds collected go to the Conference UMVIM and 30% to the Jurisdictional UMVIM programming efforts.)

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 9: *Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Whispering Pines Camp and Byron Center*

Submitted by: *Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries, with the Concurrence of the Board of Trustees*

Whereas, our purpose is to support the local church by providing an open door into the Christian life and United Methodist tradition using year-round outdoor settings for extended experiences of spiritual growth and discipleship, and

Whereas camping industry standards have determined a site must maintain a minimum of 5,000 user days per year to approach financial stability, but Byron Center averages fewer than 3,000 per year and Whispering Pines averages fewer than 2,000, and

Whereas we need to keep up with current realities in a church and society that has significantly changed with an increasing number of groups today expecting more comfort, privacy, technological advances, and adventurous programming options than the current facilities allow, and

Whereas the camp properties and programming need to improve to take us into the future, and the capital is lacking to make these vital improvements, and

Whereas camp assets are a valuable resource that need to be realigned to ensure the future viability of camping and retreat ministry, and

Whereas, after prayer, research since 2002, and careful consideration, the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries, operating under its responsibility delegated by ¶630.2e of The Book of Discipline, recommends the sale of Byron Center and Whispering Pines pursuant to the following,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conference Board of Trustees be authorized, as specified under ¶2516 of The Book of Discipline, to proceed with the sale of Byron Center and Whispering Pines camps, and that the net proceeds received be held in a restricted account for the use of the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries for varied purposes related to camp and retreat ministries including, but not limited to, camper scholarships, upgrading of remaining facilities and programs, performing deferred maintenance, and capital projects at Pine Lake Camp and Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 10: *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 2010 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson 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 Clergyperson; 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 Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson 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 Clergyperson 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 Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code Section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’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 Clergyperson 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 11: 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 2010 shall be \$641.00.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 12: 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 is Conference Rule 110.1.0 and has not since been changed;

Whereas the cost of living factor established by the U.S. Government for Social Security purposes in 2009 is 5.8%, the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation is asking for a one-year suspension of Rule 110.1.0.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Minimum Compensation for Elders, Provisional Members, and Associate Members serving full time for 2010 shall be \$35,609. The Minimum Compensation for Local Pastors serving full time shall be \$31,341.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 13: Resolution on 2009 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 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 2009 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 2009 Formal Funding Plan and be published in the 2009 Conference Yearbook and Journal.

WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2009

Formal Funding Plan – Pre-1982 Pensions

2009 Past Service Rate (PSR) - \$628.00

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-1/2007	\$72,036,516*
Present Value of Expected Future Benefits-1/2007	\$55,913,180*
Funded Status-1/2007	\$16,123,336*

The total liability as of January 1, 2007, for 2009 is \$55,913,180 based on the following key actuarial assumptions:

- 7% interest
- RP-2000 mortality table
- Past Service Rate of \$628.00
- 3.0% average increase in the Past Service Rate

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 12/31/08):

1. Deposit Account at General Board of Pensions - \$2,529,354
2. Other Funds:
 - The Wisconsin Annual Conference established the Permanent Pension Fund in 1969. The Permanent Pension Fund has a balance of \$2,032,069.
 - The Wisconsin Annual Conference established the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund in 1983. The Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund has a balance of \$893,509.
 - 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.
 - As of 12/31/07 \$1,818,355 and 12/31/08 \$1,910,589 of the Pre-'82 surplus was used for the 2008 Clergy Retirement Security Program-Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB) contribution. A similar amount was collected from Conference churches and has been invested. It will be available for pension and retiree medical benefits.

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 2009 Actuarial Valuation.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 14: *Resolution for Support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI)*

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

Whereas for clergy who serve in the Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church — conferences outside the United States — retirement is a difficult decision. Stories are numerous, and the theme is the same: years of church devotion, sacrifice and dedication, followed by retirement hardship. Approximately 2,000 retired pastors, lay workers and surviving spouses in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe struggle to survive. In areas where living conditions are already difficult, these faithful Christ workers face economic insecurity when their ministry career ends. They have little or no retirement income as they often will not have government-funded pensions.

Whereas from its earliest days, the Methodist movement realized a need to provide for aging clergy. As early as 1774, a portion of the annual Easter offering was set aside to support “preachers in want.”

Whereas seven Central Conferences have nearly tripled in membership over the last decade. Currently, 9,300 clergy in the Central Conferences serve more than 3.5 million church members.

Whereas in 2004 General Conference established the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI). CCPI is a long-term solution to provide retirement financial security for dedicated church leaders and surviving spouses. The UMC has embraced the challenge and responded generously. More than \$4 million was contributed between 2000 and 2007. For the last 8 years, the Wisconsin Annual Conference has contributed the annual “Cokesbury check” from the United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH), for a total contribution of approximately \$94,527.00. CCPI uses the earnings generated by these gifts to support Central Conference retirees.

Whereas the CCPI has already started making a difference. In 2007, a pilot project was launched in Liberia, distributing retirement funds to more than 475 retirees. A second project in Mozambique began in January 2009.

Whereas without sufficient funding, other Central Conference clergy will remain unsupported. There are 71 annual and provisional annual conferences in 42 countries outside the United States. An investment of a minimum \$20 million in gifts and pledges to be collected over the next five years is needed to establish Central Conference pension programs. These funds will be held and invested by GBPHB. All earnings will be distributed to Central Conferences that need assistance and have adequate systems in place. For every \$10,000 contributed, approximately one Central Conference retiree will be supported.

Whereas in order to help secure this support, a Joint Board CCPI Task Force has been established to provide leadership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation recommends that the Wisconsin Annual Conference set a goal of \$500,000 to be contributed by our lay members, clergy, and churches for the Central Conference Pension Initiative from 2009 – 2014.

Conference Action: Approved as Amended

Action Item 15: *Add New Policy 10.13.0 Church Closings*

Submitted by: *Board of Congregation and Circuit Development, Board of Trustees, and the Conference Rules Committee*

The Rules Committee received this proposal which has been developed and recommended jointly by the Board of Congregation and Circuit Development and Board of Trustees,

Purpose of Conference Policy on Church Closings:

The proposed new Wisconsin Annual Conference Policy 10.13 simplifies and further restricts how funds of the congregation and proceeds from sale of any real property will be used. The goal is to ensure that resources given and accrued by congregations will be used to start new congregations which will bring new believers to know Christ. The Resolution to Discontinue a Local Church brought to Annual Conference for approval must comply with **The Book of Discipline** ¶2548, and also with the more specific Wisconsin Annual Conference Rule 10.13.

Proposed Policy: Add New Policy 10.13.0 Church Closings

10.13.1 When a church is discontinued or abandoned, proceeds from sale of its property shall first be applied to maintenance, legal and other closing-related costs incurred by the Conference Trustees.

10.13.2 Assets and/or net sale proceeds from closed churches shall then next be applied toward any unpaid apportionments of the former congregation from the current and previous year.

Remaining net proceeds from the sale of discontinued church property will be administered by the Board of Congregation and Circuit Development. Forty-Five percent (45%) of the

net sale proceeds from the property sale shall be deposited into a New Faith Endowment account, with earnings/capital gains to be administered by Board of Congregation and Circuit Development for starting new faith communities in the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Any remaining assets of the discontinued congregation along with 50% of the net sale proceeds shall be deposited with the New Faith Immediate Use Fund administered by the Board of Congregation and Circuit Development for development of new faith communities in the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

10.13.3 Five percent (5%) of the net proceeds from the sale of discontinued church property shall be deposited into the Discontinued Church Disposal Reserve. The Discontinued Church Disposal Reserve will be available to the Conference Trustees. It may be used to cover any excess expenses over receipts which are incurred for maintenance and closing costs related to the disposal of abandoned and discontinued churches, which are not otherwise included in the conference budget. Assets in the reserve that exceed \$100,000 will be added to the New Faith Immediate Use Fund.

Rules Committee Recommendation:

The Rules Committee recommends approval.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 16: Resolution On Minimum Continuing Education Allowance
Submitted by: Bob Blackburn and the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry

Whereas “Guidelines for Continuing Education Theological Education” were approved by the Clergy Session of the 2008 Wisconsin Annual Conference (June 8) and,

Whereas these guidelines require every pastor as defined by Policy 150.4 to receive a minimum of 1 CEU (Continuing Education Unit) per year and at least 4 CEU’s per quadrennium through professional reading, workshops, seminars, study travel, online classes and distance learning and,

Whereas a significant disparity exists in the continuing education allowances given to clergy in our conference to meet these guidelines and,

Whereas we are called to be in a covenant community where such disparity needs to be reduced and,

Whereas we have an Equitable Compensation Policy which contains a formula for establishing the minimum salary (110.1.0);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2009 Wisconsin Annual Conference add the following new Policy 150.4.5:

150.4.5 Minimum Continuing Education Allowance

The minimum continuing education allowance for every clergy person under appointment to a local church or the conference staff shall be 2% of the minimum salary for ordained clergy persons in full connection in any given year, rounded up to the next \$100.

This policy shall go into effect on January 1, 2010.

Footnote: If this policy was currently in place, the minimum continuing education allowance for 2009 would be \$700 ($\$34,572 \times .02 = \691 , rounded up to \$700). If the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation's recommendation for 2010 minimum salary is approved, the minimum continuing education allowance for 2010 would be \$800 ($\$35,609 \times .02 = \712.18 , rounded up to \$800.)

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 17: *Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church, Wyoming Valley Township, Wisconsin*

Submitted by: *The Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church, The Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and the Cabinet*

Whereas, the Wyoming Valley UMC has had a long, rich heritage, being formed in 1849 with the current church building erected in 1902; and,

Whereas, the Wyoming Valley UMC 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 Wyoming Valley UMC has faithfully paid all apportionment payments through calendar year 2008, which has supported ministry around the world; and

Whereas, the sociology and culture of the Wyoming Valley community has changed and the mobility of the people living there has also changed; and

Whereas, the aging of the Wyoming Valley UMC membership has made it more difficult to attend services and be actively involved in church events; and

Whereas, Sunday worship attendance of Wyoming Valley UMC membership has decreased to an average of six (6) during calendar year 2008, with a total average attendance on Sunday mornings of twelve (12); and

Whereas, expenses exceeded revenues in calendar year 2007 by \$3,000 with a projected deficiency for calendar year 2008 of \$3,500 growing to over \$5,300 in calendar year 2009; and

Whereas, each member has been personally contacted by the pastor prior to January 31, 2009 to assist in transferring membership to another area United Methodist Church, should the member so choose; and

Whereas, the membership of Wyoming Valley UMC, meeting in a Special Church Conference on December 14, 2008, voted to discontinue worship services effective December 28, 2009 with a deconsecrating service, and to discontinue the congregation as of January 31, 2009, and

Whereas all historical documents will be filed with the Wisconsin Conference Historical Society in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and

Whereas, the Capital-Coulee District Board of Church Location and Building has approved the discontinuance, and the Conference Board of Trustees and the Wisconsin

2009 Wisconsin Conference Journal

Conference presiding Bishop Linda Lee and the District Superintendents have consented to the discontinuance of Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, the assets of Wyoming Valley UMC as of December 31, 2008 (both real property and contents) were made available for sale to the church membership, or to others with the approval of the church membership and the Wisconsin Annual Conference, during the month of January 2009 at a reasonable current value,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in the 40th session, June 14-17, 2009 at Appleton, WI, declares the Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church of Wyoming Valley, Wisconsin, discontinued as of January 31, 2009, and directs the Coulee District Superintendent to be the officer of the Conference to implement the plan as described in the resolution, with the help of Circuit 53 and the Board of Congregational and Circuit Development, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets remaining on January 31, 2009 (including real property, contents, and money) be first used to cover local obligations and then be invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc., to be administered by the Board of Congregational and Circuit Development for the starting of a New Church/Faith Community in the Wyoming Valley Area/Circuit 53 area. Should this not be deemed practical in the next three year period, any assets remaining at that time will be given to local charitable organizations serving the Wyoming Valley area.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 18: *Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Paris Corners United Methodist Church, Town of Paris, Kenosha County, Wisconsin*

Submitted by: *The Paris Corners United Methodist Church, The Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and the Cabinet*

Whereas, the Paris Corners United Methodist Church, located in the Town of Paris, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, which emerged from the Baptist Society in 1879 in the original building located on highway 45 just north of highway 142 next to the cemetery, and moved to the existing building in 1953, has chosen to be discontinued due to the lack of an appointed pastor to help with church growth, decreased weekly attendance, decreased youth in attendance, no youth programming, no growth “green community”, and no local contacts, and

Whereas, at a church conference held on December 7, 2008, the membership in attendance voted to discontinue the church effective January 4, 2009, and

Whereas the district superintendent led a service of discontinuance on January 4, 2009, and

Whereas, consent to discontinue has been granted by Presiding Bishop Linda Lee, the majority of the district superintendents, and the District Board of Church Location and Building, and all other proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with; and

Whereas, all historical and legal documents and records have been transferred to the Conference Archives in Sun Prairie;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 40th Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting June 14-17, 2009 at Appleton, Wisconsin, declares the Paris Corners United Methodist Church, Parish Township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, discontinued as of January 4, 2009, and directs the Metro South District Superintendent to be the officer of the Conference to implement this action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the net proceeds of the sale of the church property and all remaining assets be used to cover any remaining local obligations, and the remaining shall be used divided equally between Paul Webster Mission in Africa and Kwang Moon Ko Mission in Bolivia.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 19: *Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Lark, Wisconsin*

Submitted by: *Lark: Emmanuel Church Council, Nicolet District Board of Church Location and Building, and Cabinet*

Whereas the Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin has served in faithful ministry for over 150 years; and,

Whereas people have come to know and experience God through the ministries of worship, mission, study, and fellowship in Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin; and,

Whereas at a special Church Conference held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin on October 6, 2008, the membership present voted by majority to discontinue Emmanuel United Methodist Church effective December 31, 2008, in agreement with the recommendation made by the Task Force which employed the “Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential” based on ¶213 of *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas the Nicolet District Board of Church Location and Building, area presiding Bishop Linda Lee, and the District Superintendents have approved the discontinuance of Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin; and,

Whereas a celebration of the church’s ministry over its 150 year history took place during the church’s annual charge conference on November 2nd, and

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

Whereas pastoral care has been given to members of Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin by the clergy and laity of Circuit 14, and members have been encouraged to transfer membership to another United Methodist Church or to a church of their own choosing; and,

Whereas the special church conference held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin on October 6, 2008 directed the Trustees of Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin, as authorized by the **Book of Discipline**, to immediately begin the process of caring for the dispersal of church property and the sale of the church parsonage, land and buildings as follows:

1. The Emmanuel and St. John's cemeteries be deeded by the Wisconsin Conference on behalf of Emmanuel United Methodist Church to the Cemetery Association should the cemetery association become its own entity and the current monies listed in the church's financial report for the care and upkeep of the cemeteries be transferred to the cemetery association, should the cemetery association be established.

2. All remaining property and funds, including the church building and parsonage, be sold or liquidated and the proceeds dispersed 25% to the Wisconsin Conference Board of Congregation and Circuit Development New Church Start Fund and 75% to Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church for mission and ministry in the Nicolet District.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 40th Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting June 14-17, 2009 at Appleton, Wisconsin, declares the Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Lark, Wisconsin, discontinued as of December 31, 2008, and directs the Nicolet District Superintendent to be the officer of the Conference to implement this action.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 20: ***Covenant of Affiliation between The Village at Manor Park, Inc. and the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church***

Submitted by: ***Health and Welfare Ministries Committee***

***Covenant of Affiliation between
The Village at Manor Park, Inc. and the
Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church***
(Approved by Board of Directors, The Village at Manor Park,
and the Health and Welfare Ministries Committee.

To be acted upon by the Board of Global Ministries on May 19, 2009)

The primary objective of the Covenant of Affiliation (Covenant) between the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church (Conference) and The Village at Manor Park, Inc. (VMP), 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 VMP and the Conference. This Covenant replaces any and all prior Covenants.

Conference Expectations

1. Communicate to VMP 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 VMP.
2. Communicate to VMP 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. Maintain Conference membership and active participation in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).
4. The Resident Bishop will designate a member of the VMP Board of Directors as the liaison between the Conference and the VMP Board to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Encourage VMP’s efforts to obtain accreditation through the Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) Accreditation Program of the UMA.
6. Every 4 years in the spring following the UMC General Conference, review the relationship of the Conference and VMP and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant.
7. Advocate and promote VMP’s mission and programs through the communication channels of the Conference, including the Conference Journal, the Conference proceedings, the Golden Cross appeal, the Conference publications and website, and other means.
8. Celebrate annually at the Conference session the contribution of VMP to the mission of the church.
9. Encourage collaboration among health and welfare ministries, Conference entities, and local churches to respond to health and welfare needs within the Conference.
10. Assist VMP when requested in identifying persons to serve in spiritual leadership roles.
11. Make available to VMP:
 - (1) information regarding the availability of grants;
 - (2) information regarding relevant resources available through Conference staff and General Church boards and agencies;
 - (3) assistance through the Wisconsin UM Foundation with fund raising through grants, wills, trusts, and other methods of giving;
 - (4) training resources for VMP staff and Board of Directors in mutually identified areas of interest, for example governance and planning; and
 - (5) fair consideration of requests for conference wide fundraising appeals.
12. Give consideration to the financial needs of all Conference related health and welfare ministries in the Conference’s annual budget setting process.
13. Instruct the Conference District Superintendent to engage in a face-to-face conversation with the CEO of VMP at least once a year in order to be familiar with, and supportive of the VMP mission and ministry.
14. Instruct pastors appointed to the West Allis area that one of the missional reasons for their appointment to that community is to be involved in developing an active on-going relationship between their congregations and VMP.

15. Have churches in VMP service area annually report to the annual Church/Charge Conference their support (financial, promotion, volunteer, leadership, etc.) of VMP.
16. Indemnify and hold VMP harmless from and against any claims, causes of action, and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) which may arise from any Conference operations.
17. 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.

VMP 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 use of the name "The United Methodist Church" and the "Cross and Flame" insignia of The United Methodist Church.
3. Maintain VMP membership and active participation in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).
4. Nominate a member of the VMP Board of Directors to be designated by the Resident Bishop as the liaison between VMP and the Conference to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Obtain accreditation through the Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) Accreditation Program of the UMA.
6. Every 4 years in the spring following the UMC General Conference, review the relationship of VMP and the Conference and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant.
7. Provide for publication in the Conference Journal:
 - (1) the VMP mission statement and other foundational statements as amended from time to time;
 - (2) an annual summary of operations including the financial amount of benevolent care provided;
 - (3) a list of names, addresses, and church affiliations (if known) of members of the VMP Board of Directors; and
 - (4) descriptions of programs and services in response to emerging trends and community needs, particularly noting initiatives related to racial/ethnic groups, people with disability conditions, the disenfranchised, and undocumented immigrants.
8. Identify in promotional materials that VMP is affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.

9. Cooperate with the Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and congregations in the VMP service area in creating new and expanded health and welfare ministries within the Conference.
10. Provide high quality spiritual life resources to VMP residents.
11. Seek written approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration prior to engaging in conference-wide fund raising efforts.
12. Provide to the Committee a dissolution clause for the real property of VMP which is consistent with The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (current edition).
13. Arrange an annual on-site visit with the Conference District Superintendent.
14. Link VMP to the Annual Conference session by electing to the VPM board of directors one or more lay or clergy members of the Annual Conference.
15. Encourage local United Methodist pastors to participate in VMP programs through the VMP Pastoral Care Department.
16. 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 VMP operations.
17. Carry professional and general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure VMP, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims from third parties for activities undertaken by VMP.

Conference Action: Approved

Action Item 21: 2010 Proposed Budget
Submitted by: Council on Finance and Administration

Conference Action: Approved as Amended

The 2010 Approved Conference Budget is printed following the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church/