
SECTION 3: MINISTRIES OF ADVOCACY

The votes shown are those from the legislative section for each item.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Jeff Wells, Chairperson

Concur: 141, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain:5; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) has 32 members. We continue to maintain a very diverse membership. Our Board is now has approximately 30 percent racial and ethnic minority representation. The Board includes an equal number of lay and clergy persons.

102. The Board met by teleconference four times in 2010.

103. After having helped to establish the NYAC Task Force on Immigration, CBCS voted in 2010 to drop its “Immigration Team.” The Board is now divided into three “teams” to focus on different areas of social ministry. The three teams and team leaders are:

Peace & Poverty/Hunger	Team leader:	Jessica Anschutz
Healthcare	Team leader:	Nancy Zukowski
Environment/Care for Creation	Team leader:	Guy D’Angelo

The intention is that the teams will meet and work on their respective areas of concern, while also assisting and collaborating with other teams. CBCS as a whole will meet two or three times a year (or as needed). Each member of the Board is asked to actively participate in at least one social ministry team.

104. The Board put a great deal of work into creating a very exciting display for the “Festival of Ministries” at the 2010 Annual Conference session. We collected dozens of names on our mailing list and distributed free nearly 800 copies of the *Social Principles of the UMC*. We also gave out reams of flyers and hundreds of brochures and “Faith Facts & Figures” cards on a variety of topics. We designed a set of four 11” x 17” posters addressing the areas of healthcare, poverty, peace, and the environment and offered them for sale. One of the most exciting parts of our display was the two actors playing the prophet Amos and Mary McLeod Bethune. We also invited representatives from the NYC Living Wage Campaign to our display area.

105. We held our annual dinner at the 2010 Session at which we heard from Katey Zeh, a consultant with the General Board of Church and Society. Katey is working on global maternal and child healthcare and family planning and helping to promote GBCS’s “Healthy Families, Healthy Planet” initiative. Her co-presenter was Julie Warren, a registered nurse with extensive experience working in West Africa. Over 100 people attended the dinner.

106. CBCS initiated petitions in support of the NYC Living Wage Campaign and the “Healthy Families, Healthy Planet” project and signed on to co-sponsor petitions on hate crimes and immigration.

107. CBCS co-sponsored, provided significant funding, and helped to publicize the Hate Crimes Symposium, “My Brother’s Keeper,” on November 20 at Grace UMC in Manhattan. It was a very successful and important event in our Conference.

108. Working in collaboration with the GBGM director of ministry with the poor, CBCS helped to mobilize a small contingent of clergy and lay persons from

our Conference to attend a rally at City Hall in NYC to launch the campaign to get the City Council to pass “living wage” legislation for NY City. In January 2011, we were able to assist Bishop Park to write a letter in support of the campaign, part of which was then read to a mass meeting of 2,000 people at Central Baptist Church.

109. In October 2010, the Board approved a proposal to hire a part-time consultant to act as a social action coordinator and organizer. This proposal was discussed with Bishop Park and the Cabinet as well as with the program and administrative staff of the Annual Conference. In January 2011, the Board met with Bishop Park and worked out plans to proceed with publicizing this position and, in consultation with the Cabinet, hiring someone to fill it in 2011. This position is to be fully paid for out of Church and Society funds and will have no impact on the Conference budget or finances.
110. The Board voted to provide 10 copies of the *Social Principles of the UMC 2008-2012* to any congregation that requests them.
111. CBCS continues its work to build up our mailing list with the goal of creating a network of clergy and lay activists throughout the NYAC. Contact Pastor Jeff Wells (pastorwells1@verizon.net) to have your email address added to the list for event announcements and action alerts.
112. The Conference Board of Church and Society encourages all members of the NYAC to subscribe to the General Board’s email newsletter, “Faith in Action,” which is sent out about every ten days. You can subscribe to the newsletter at www.umc-gbcs.org (link in right column).

CBCS encourages each local church in the Conference to consider setting up its own “Church and Society” or “social concerns” team to promote education and advocacy around the UM Social Principles and to work on local social concerns. CBCS can be a great resource in helping local churches build up their ministries of education and advocacy around social concerns and social justice. Contact Pastor Jeff Wells (pastorwells1@verizon.net) or Pastor Steve Phillips (steve@pleasantumc.org) to find out how CBCS can help.

NYAC-JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (NYAC-JFON) IMMIGRATION PROJECT

Carolyn Stapleton, Chairperson, Pauline Wardell-Sankoh, Vice Chairperson, Robert Bobb, Secretary

Legislative Section referred to Plenary with amendment. NYAC conference session: adopted without amendment.

101. **History:** Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) was founded as a result of The United Methodist Church’s General Board of Global Ministries’ acute awareness of the tremendous need for immigration assistance. The General Board of Global Ministries funded this project through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The New York Annual Conference adopted the Justice for our Neighbors project as a ministry of the Conference several years ago. Each Justice for Our Neighbors legal clinic is an opportunity for local congregations to “open their doors” with a warm and hospitable welcome for newcomers in their midst. JFON provides a place for community gathering and table fellowship where parishioners and newcomers may come together to seek peace and transformation in a troubled world.

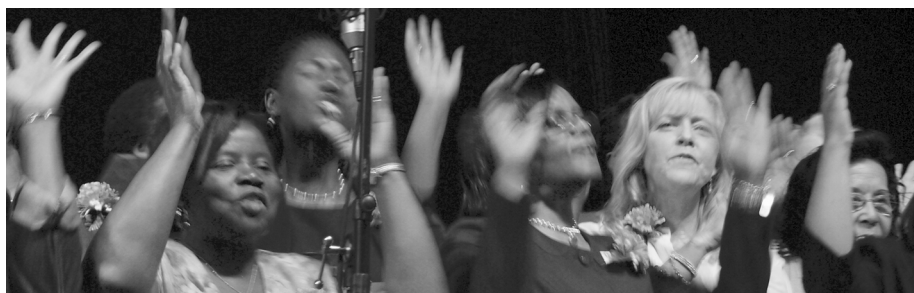
102. **Church Based, Volunteer Led:** JFON provides free, professional and confidential legal services to immigrants in monthly clinics. This UMCOR program connects a national network of church-based, volunteer-led immigration clinics to asylum seekers and immigrants who need a helping hand to navigate the maze of rules and laws that affect their lives in the United States.
103. JFON represents the response of The United Methodist Church and its local congregations to the needs of immigrants seeking to reunify their families, secure immigration status, and enjoy the right to work. The JFON model embraces the mandate of biblical hospitality. The program relies on United Methodist connectional relationships to bring together resources and commitment from local churches, districts, conferences, and UMCOR. The NY Region JFON now NYAC-JFON includes a Presbyterian partner in Queens.
104. Trained and resourced by JFON's national office, JFON volunteers advocate for just and compassionate immigration laws and public policy, networking with other advocacy groups where possible. The JFON network is coordinated by a national staff in Silver Spring, MD. Some twenty clinic sites in nine Annual Conferences participate. JFON services are provided by qualified immigration attorneys. The New York Region attorney is Thomas J. Mills, Esquire. We continue to need additional legal staff and funds to pay for the additional staff. NYAC-JFON is an active member of the New York Annual Conference Immigration Task Force.
105. **Background:** NYAC-JFON works to remedy the plight of immigrants made vulnerable by passage of harsh immigration laws that threaten the lives of so many persons who have settled in America and made it their home. Many came to this country to be free from oppression or to be able to sustain the lives of their families. Most are hard-working, low-paid members of our society. The free clinic network extends the support and welcome of the church to marginalized immigrants living in the shadows among us. The recent harsh legislation, long-term detentions and deportations of undocumented immigrants stirs up a climate of intolerance which hinders good-faith efforts to pass humane legislation that takes into account the plight of those who live, work and strive for a better life for themselves and their loved ones just as we do.
106. **It is Part of Our United Methodist Faith!** *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so; some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:1-2)*

When we welcome sojourners, it is as if we are receiving Christ, and our doing so becomes a sign of our faithfulness. The 1986 United Methodist Bishops' Statement on Refugees and Immigration says, “God comes to us in the form of the vulnerable person who lacks the benefit of status and protection in an alien land. In the flesh of Jesus Christ of Nazareth God chose to sojourn in a particular way for the sake of all humankind... and restored the possibility of authentic community in which love and justice reign and peace prevails.”

107. **Justice for Our Neighbors in the New York Annual Conference:** In 1999, John Wesley UMC in Brooklyn, NY, Chinese UMC in Lower Manhattan, NY and a Presbyterian Church, La Promesa in Flushing, NY were selected to be among the initial sites to provide free, quality legal services to immigrants of all nationalities. Since that time, the clinics have served over 7,000 clients addressing a range of needs, including: Violence against Women Act, Adjustment of Status/Permanent Residency, Employment Authorization, Visas/

Visa Extensions, Family Petitions, Religious Workers, Naturalization, Widow Petition, Freedom of Information Act, and Political Asylum.

108. The ministry is presently sustained by NYAC support, UMCOR, United Methodist City Society, yearly donations from Judson Memorial Presbyterian Church, contributions from the three founding churches, a few NYAC churches and some former clients. We are most grateful for all our streams of funding but as the demands for the ministry increase, more funding is needed to be able to sustain it. This year, for the first time, we have been awarded a grant from The General Commission on Religion and Race which is still in the process of being finalized.
109. NYAC-JFON will use the funds from GCORR to reach out to persons in areas where there are strong pockets of persons who vehemently oppose immigration. We propose to change minds and hearts by presenting a true, cogent picture of the plight and contributions of immigrants in this country in order to alleviate the fears of those who believe they are being threatened in some way by the presence of immigrants in our midst. Our attorney(s), JFON National Staff and trained volunteers from the three established clinics will be represented at each gathering of churches that agree to host an information session to fulfill this grant. These gatherings and others of similar nature enable JFON to reach out to more churches and share information in areas where there are no clinics and introduce them to the JFON model. At some of our events called "Circuit Rides," persons who have immigration needs are able speak to the attorney(s). Last year we opened another clinic in Yonkers, New York which unfortunately was closed after it became fiscally unfeasible for it to be maintained in the network. If your church is interested in having a "Circuit Ride," or hosting a GCORR event which requires the attendance of at least 25 persons to qualify for the purpose of the grant, please contact our Regional Coordinator at NYAC-JFON, 2085 5th Avenue, NY, NY 10035, 212-987-9705 (Office), 646-575-7983 (Cell), or 917-508-4878 (Fax) and someone will take care of your request promptly.
110. **Recommendation:** In order to carry out the critical work of the NYAC-Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Project in the New York Annual Conference, a commitment of ongoing financial support is needed. We continue to prayerfully request that the Annual Conference make a bold statement by declaring this most worthwhile ministry a line item in our budget so that NYAC-JFON will be able to rely on the full funding awarded in order to carry out its mission. This line item will indicate the Conference's commitment to justice for all God's people. Our Conference Mission statement says, "*The New York Annual Conference, through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope...*" The NYAC-JFON will offer that beloved community of hope to the sojourners in our midst by showing its full commitment in a tangible way.



NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE TASK FORCE ON IMMIGRATION

Task Force Co-Chairs: Ximena A. Varas — Certified Lay Minister, First UMC of Shelton in Shelton, CT; Rev. Hector LaPorta — Pastor, Fourth Avenue UMC in Brooklyn, NY

Concur: 136, Non-Concur: 3, Abstain: 7; 97.8% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. **History:** The New York Annual Conference Task Force on Immigration was convened in the Fall of 2008 as a cooperative venture between the Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) and the Conference Board of Church and Society. Representation was soon sought from the ethnic caucuses and boards within the conference with a specific interest in immigration. It was then called the “Immigration Organizing Committee” (IOC). In June of 2009, the Annual Conference session approved petition to establish expanded “IOG” as the official NYAC Task Force on Immigration. The Task Force was approved with much support from the members and the Bishop, making us the fourth UM Annual Conference to set up a body.
102. **Purpose & Scope:** Our purpose is to advocate, educate and to be a resource for all people in our Conference on immigrant rights. We have offered seminars throughout the Conference, sponsored prayer vigils, and coordinated UMC participation in marches, rallies and other immigration-related events. We have 88 members and friends from all over the Conference our mailing list. We are also part of the National Rapid Response Team on Immigration and other interfaith organizations in New York, Connecticut and the rest of the country. We also collaborate actively with the following NYAC connectional bodies: Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Women (UMW), Justice for our Neighbors (JFON), Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) and Methodists in New Directions (MIND).
103. **Activities:** In the last year, our main projects have been:
- display at Momentum of Ministry at Annual Conference in 2010
 - holding two immigration seminars called: “Welcoming the Sojourner, Where Faith and Immigration Intersect” in Hartford, CT and Beacon, NY
 - endorsing “My Brother's Keeper” on November 20 at Grace UMC in Manhattan
 - coordinated advocacy for the national Dream Act
 - coordinated advocacy for the CT Dream Act (Proposed Senate Bill 40) which would provide in-state tuition for children of undocumented immigrants.
104. For next year, our main goals are:
- hold a Conference-wide training event on October 22nd which will feature testimony and teaching from immigrants and congregations that are engaged in advocacy and mission around the needs of immigrant communities
 - develop a clear strategy for engaging congregational participation in the Task Force and through this in the broader movement for fundamental change in immigration policy, including a communications strategy that links the work going on in different congregations with each other, with the liturgical calendar, and with national organizing priorities
 - increase and focus the involvement of all the connectional bodies that are a part of our Task Force so that their efforts are also bolstered through their participation

- train our emerging leaders and link them with other regional and national organizing efforts

105. **Budget:** Thus far, we have sustained this work through combined resources of our partnering connectional bodies and participating congregations. However, we this year we would request a small budget for our operational proposes, as follows:

Office Equipment (enough for used computer + printer)	\$750.00
Transportation Stipends (to support meetings and trainings)	\$1250.00
TOTAL	\$2000.00

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Roena Littlejohn, Chair

Concur: 143, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain:2; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The New York Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race owes a debt of gratitude to its past Chair, Ms. Inday Day, for her dedication and commitment to the work of this commission. Since the passage of Petition GC #2007-302 at Annual Conference, she has worked tirelessly to initiate, coordinate and schedule Anti-Racism training events as mandated for “all clergy, all members of District Committees on Ordained Ministry, the NYAC Board of Ordained Ministry, the CCORR, the Bishop and members of the Cabinet.”
102. Working collaboratively with the Rev. Jim Moore, Catskill/Hudson DS, Ms. Day scheduled a training event, “Unseating Racism from Pulpit & Pew” for October 19-20, 2010. When she was unable to follow through with the plans, she decided to step aside and scheduled an election for late September. The results of the election: Roena Littlejohn was elected Chair and the Rev. Vicki Flippin was elected Secretary. We deeply appreciate Ms. Day’s leadership, wish her good health and ask God’s richest blessings upon her.
103. The Rev. Moore was very helpful in keeping a record of the clergy who registered for “Unseating Racism from Pulpit & Pew” during the transition. The Catskill/Hudson training event was very successful, well organized and had good attendance; 46 of the 48 registered attended with 2 excused due to illness. I am grateful to the Rev. Moore for assisting me in my first official endeavour.
104. Since the election we have accomplished the following:
- Set meeting dates for the rest of this Conference year
 - Obtained a clergy list for each district, with the help of the Rev. Ann Pearson
 - Determined the number of clergy and lay persons trained
 - Scheduled three training events for 2011
 - Met with Bishop Park
 - Requested each DS to forward names of 2 committed persons to serve on the Commission
 - Prepared and presented the budget for 2012
 - The Anti-Racism Training calendar for 2011:

Monday & Tuesday	March 28-29, 2011
Monday & Tuesday	October 17-18, 2011
Monday & Tuesday	October 31 – November 1, 2011

105. At the 2011 Training for Conference Chairs of CCORR & GCSRW, we received new Monitoring tools and guidelines for the work of this commission. We will become familiar with the tools to be used when monitoring at Annual and District Conferences. These tools and forms will be presented and discussed at our next face-to-face meeting in preparation for Annual Conference.
106. Finally, in November, 2010, CCORR collaborated with many other Conference groups to co-sponsor “My Brother’s Keeper: A Christian Response to Hate Crimes.” This was an inspiring, disturbing, and thought-provoking one-day symposium that highlighted the effects that hate crimes have had on our own communities. Because racial bias is the leading motivation for hate crimes, CCORR was proud to be a part of this important event and joins in the call for The United Methodist Church to stand boldly against intimidation of and violence against any of God’s people.
107. Our thanks to Bishop Park for his encouragement and support, to the Rev. Taka Ishii for his guidance and consultation from the GCORR; to the Rev. Ann Pearson for leadership and support; to the Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Cabinet liaison, for advocacy and assistance; to the Rev. Vicki Flippin, secretary, for perseverance and support; and to our members for their faithful service: Rev. Gertude Nation, Rev. Rhonda Taylor, Rev. Cherie Philips, Ms. Melodye Merola, Rev. Cynthia Major, Dr. Jaewon Kim, Mr. Les Johnson, Rev. Roger Jackson, Rev. Sarah Ford, and Mr. Richard Nicodemus.

PETITION #2011-AC301 – IN SUPPORT OF THE RETIRED BISHOPS’ STATEMENT

Concur: 124, Non-Concur: 22, Abstain: 3; 84.9% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: None

WHEREAS on January 31, 2011, a group of retired bishops sent the following statement in an email letter to their retired colleague members of the Council of Bishops. It contains “A Statement of Counsel to the Church – 2011” signed by 33 of the retired bishops of the Council.

A Statement of Counsel to the Church—2011

Out of concern for the welfare of all God’s people, and, out of special concern for the people of The United Methodist Church, we, United Methodist Bishops – retired, believe The United Methodist Church should remove the following statement from *The Book of Discipline (2008)*:

“...The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.” ¶304.3

Our lives and ministries over the years have included prayerful, thoughtful consideration of our Holy Bible, our Wesleyan heritage, reflection on our experience of the church and world, and our conviction of God’s intention for a world transformed.

With this statement of conviction and counsel we seek:

- To affirm that the historic tests of “gifts and evidence of God’s grace” for ordained ministry override any past or present temporal restrictions such as race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- To urge the Church, ecumenical and denominational, to change the manner in which it relates to gay, lesbian and transgendered persons in official statements, judicial proceedings, and in congregational life.
- To declare our conviction that the current disciplinary position of The United Methodist Church, a part of our historical development, need not, and should not, be embraced as the faithful position for the future.
- To make known our names and shared personal conviction on this matter and to encourage other church and Episcopal leaders to do the same.

With increasing frequency we observe and experience the following disturbing realities and know them to be detrimental to the mission of a Church of Jesus Christ:

- Laity and clergy, gay and straight, withdrawing membership or absenting themselves from the support of congregational and denominational Church life in order to maintain personal integrity.
- Young adults, especially, embarrassed to invite friends and expressing dismay at the unwillingness of our United Methodist Church to alter its 39-year exclusionary stance.
- Closeted pastors, currently called and ordained in our church, living divided lives while offering effective appreciated ministry.
- Bishops being drained of energy by upholding Church Discipline while regarding it as contrary to their convictions.
- Bishops caught between care for the Church by reappointing an effective gay or lesbian pastor and care for the Discipline by charging them under current legislation.
- Seminary leaders desiring greater flexibility and openness from the church in order to advance their mission of identifying, recruiting, enrolling, educating and spiritually forming Christian leaders.
- Christian gay men and women understanding themselves called of God to seek ministry opportunities within their United Methodist family Church home, but having to decide between:
 - leaving to go to accepting denominations, or
 - staying and praying for change, or
 - challenging Church law and accepting punitive actions.

Our United Methodist Church, ashamed and repentant in the past, ended official and unofficial restrictions on candidacy, ordination and appointment for reason of race, gender and ethnicity. We believe the God we know in Jesus is leading us to issue this counsel and call – a call to transform our church life and our world.

United Methodist Episcopal Leaders—Retired:

Sharon Z. Rader
 Donald A. Ott
 Beverly Shamana
 C. Joseph Sprague
 Melvin G. Talbert
 S. Clifton Ives
 Joe A. Wilson
 William Lewis
 Forrest Stith
 Susan Morrison
 Susan Hassinger
 Judy Craig

Dale White
 William Boyd Grove
 C. P. Minnick
 Kenneth L. Carder
 Roy I. Sano
 Joe Yeakel
 Kenneth Hicks
 Joseph Humper
 Monk Bryan
 Jesse DeWitt
 Jack Tuell
 J. Lloyd Knox

Charles W. Jordan
 J. Lawrence McCleskey
 Marshall L. Meadors, Jr.
 Franz Schafer
 Sheldon Duecker
 Fritz Mutti
 Cal McConnell
 Leontine T. C. Kelly
 Robert C. Morgan
 Alfred Johnson
 Richard Wilke
 Danny Arichea

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby support the 33 Retired Bishops' "Statement of Counsel to the Church – 2011."

Submitted and endorsed by:

Clergy:

Taka Ishii
Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii
Dennis Winkleblack
Wilmer Wolf
Stephen Bauman
Walter Barton
Kun Sam Cho
Hector Laporta
George Engelhardt
Brian Bodt
Woody Eddins
Virginia Carle
Hal Vink
Agnes Saffoury
Walter Schenck
Erik Rasmussen
Ron Tompkins
Janet Porcher
Will Nichols
Sara Thompson Tweedy
Eric Fjeldal
Caroly Gibson
Evelyn McDonald
Lucy Porter
Paul Fleck
Carol Bloom
Kevan Hitch
John Brown
Thomas Smoot
Eric Fjeldal
John Capen

Bruce Anspach
Mel Kawakami
Kevin Mulqueen
Dick Parker
Vicky Fleming
Craig Fitzsimmons
Dale Ashby
Charles Straut
Jody Cross-Hansen
Hermon Darden
Vicki Flippin
Karen Karpow
Dick Yerrington
Sharon Miller
Lorraine DeArmitt
Bryan Hooper
Betty Lines
Martha Epstein
Elizabeth Jones
Matt Curry
Bob Knebel
Wongee Joh
Dorothy Weigert
Judy Stevens
Margaret Laemmel
Richard Rice
Elizabeth Schrader
Jim Stinson
Tim Riss
Herb Miller
Alexis Carol
Mark Chatterton

Lori Miller
John Carr
Sara Lamar-Sterling
Ed Horne
Albert Miller
Laity:
Melody Merola
Roena Littlejohn
Mark Davies
Jane Vink
Fred Brammer
Patricia Brammer
Kathryn Dickinson
Robert Hunsinger
Joan Mallory
Glen Hoffs
James Harvey
Robert A. Lukey
Carolyn Hardin
Engelhardt
Arthur A. Blanchard
Susan B. Blanchard
Terry Todd
Deborah Moore
Donna Orlando
Ximena A. Varas
Patricia Longway
Jane Wakeman
June Sibley-Prusak
Terry Parker
Margie Betts
Barbara Stinson

<i>Evian Crosdale</i>	<i>Janet Yamnicky</i>	<i>Marilyn Smith</i>
<i>Sandra Ericson</i>	<i>Lorie Evans</i>	<i>Carol Hartney</i>
<i>John Sibley-Prusak</i>	<i>Lindsay Evans</i>	<i>Pat Galgan</i>
<i>Laura Kurimai</i>	<i>Mary Anne Shail</i>	<i>Belle Kicinski,</i>
<i>Phyllis Machledt</i>	<i>John Shail</i>	<i>Sandra Laurens</i>
<i>Jennifer Dale</i>	<i>Dorothee Benz</i>	<i>Christina Stack</i>
<i>Mary Unfricht</i>	<i>Kevin Nelson</i>	<i>Lisa Larsen Hill</i>
<i>Pamela Kurimai</i>	<i>Maggie Carr</i>	<i>Amy Stack</i>
<i>Emily Evina</i>	<i>Sylvia Wagner</i>	<i>Kimberly Stack</i>
<i>William Brown</i>	<i>Natalie Gunter</i>	<i>Lois Hunt</i>
<i>Janice Brown</i>	<i>Amy Gunter</i>	<i>Marion Ramsey Miller</i>
	<i>Catherine Gunter</i>	

PETITION #2011-AC302 – ALIGNING UMC INVESTMENTS WITH RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Concur: 97, Non-Concur: 18, Abstain: 7; 84.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: Yes (but not in terms of budget spending)

WHEREAS Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, which is destroying their lives,¹ and

WHEREAS, although The United Methodist Church (UMC) has long opposed the occupation, UMC boards, agencies, and annual conferences still hold stock in companies that sustain it,² and

WHEREAS the UMC General Conference in 1996 declared that "continuing efforts by the State of Israel to build settlements in the occupied territories violate both international law and the spirit of the Declaration of Principles [the Oslo peace process],"³ and

WHEREAS the 2004 General Conference approved a resolution opposing "confiscation of Palestinian land, ... the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings,"⁴ and

1 Kairos Palestine. "A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love From the Heart of Palestinian Suffering" www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf Web. 1 May 2010.

2 Holy Land Task Force. "Companies of Concern" www.umhltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html Web. November 2010.

3 General Board of Global Ministries. "Two Resolutions of the United Methodist Church on the Middle East: The Building of Settlements in Occupied Territories." www.gb-gm-umc.org/middle_east/Jerusalem.html Web. 1996. As cited in The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000. "214. Israel-Palestine Conflict – The Building of Settlements in the Occupied Territories." (Abingdon Press), 732.

4 United Methodist Church. "Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land" http://archives.umc.org/interior_print.asp?ptid=4&mid=6855 Web 2004. As cited in The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2004. "312. Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land." (Abingdon Press), 789.

WHEREAS *The Book of Discipline* discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights” (§716),⁵ and

WHEREAS Palestinian human rights are violated by companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation wall, home demolitions and other realities of the occupation, and

WHEREAS researchers with the General Boards of Global Ministries and of Church and Society, several annual conferences, and ecumenical partners have identified a limited number of US and international companies in the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) portfolio that sustain Israel’s occupation,² and

WHEREAS United Methodists have engaged Caterpillar, Motorola and Hewlett Packard on this issue for years and have asked them to end their involvement with the occupation, and

WHEREAS *The Book of Discipline* requires consideration of divestment when companies do not respond to corporate engagement with changed practices (§716),⁵ and

WHEREAS, at the October 2010 Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Summit, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits stated that SRI measures it has employed in the past, including screening and divestment, have not violated the board’s fiduciary responsibility to beneficiaries, and

WHEREAS divestment is not aimed at Israel itself, but at the occupation of land beyond its internationally recognized borders; as a non-violent moral action, divestment seeks to strengthen the Church’s support for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, whose future can only be secured through a just peace, and

WHEREAS many faith groups and organizations around the world have already divested or publicly support divestment,⁶ and

WHEREAS all UMC mission personnel who have served in the Holy Land since the 1990s support divestment, and

WHEREAS the Church should lead with prophetic action by publicly and promptly aligning its investments with longstanding church policies opposing the Israeli occupation, and

WHEREAS the 2006 New York Annual Conference called “upon the United Methodist Board of Pensions to review its investments and undertake a process of phased, selective divestment from any multinational corporations profiting from illegal demolition of Palestinian homes, destruction of Palestinian economy and confiscation of Palestinian land, following United Methodist guidelines which require a period of information gathering and evaluation of alternative means of intervention before undertaking a boycott.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, following the teachings of Jesus Christ and supported by people of every faith, the New York Annual Conference joins with other United Methodist entities in ending any financial involvement in Israel’s occupation by divesting from companies that sustain the occupation, and

5 *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008*. “Socially Responsible Investments” (Abingdon Press), 492.

6 Interfaith Peace Initiative. “Global Actions to End the Israeli Occupation” www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/globalactions.pdf Web July 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the New York Annual Conference (NYAC) of The United Methodist Church:

- instructs the Conference Treasurer to direct the Frontier Foundation to promptly divest all NYAC investments from Caterpillar, Motorola and Hewlett Packard, which have been engaged repeatedly by United Methodist agencies and annual conferences on this issue, until these companies end their involvement in the Israeli occupation; and
- calls on the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, with the assistance of the Conference Board of Church and Society, to monitor United Methodist engagement with other companies in the NYAC's portfolios that have been identified by researchers at the United Methodist agencies and annual conferences as being involved in the occupation.[2] If these companies do not change their involvement within two years, they should be removed from the NYAC's investments held by the Frontier Foundation and any other NYAC investment portfolios; and
- requires the Conference Council on Finance and Administration include in its report to the 2012 Annual Conference a description of the NYAC's actions toward complying with this resolution; and
- calls on The United Methodist Church boards and agencies, annual conferences, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider corporate involvement in Israel's occupation when making investment decisions.
- encourages United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights and an end to the occupation.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armitt, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed. Horne, Rev. James "K" Karpen, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. David Lull, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch



PETITION #2011-AC303 – ENDORSE THE EARTH CHARTER

Concur: 104, Non-Concur: 4, Abstain:6; 96.3% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: None

WHEREAS we are reminded by God the Creator that all the Earth and its life is good (Genesis 1:24–25), and

WHEREAS we are reminded by Jesus, our Savior, that we are to show compassion to all (Matthew 25:40), and

WHEREAS humanity, driven by greed and the quest for power, has despoiled and continues to destroy the ecological and planetary systems that sustain life on Earth, and

WHEREAS the ongoing destruction of the Earth’s ability to sustain life is a moral issue, with a spiritual dimension that should be addressed by religious institutions, and

WHEREAS Earth Charter International published a booklet entitled “Generating the Renewable Energy of Hope – The Earth Charter Guide to Religion and Climate Change” (Nov. 2009), and

WHEREAS many local and national governments, religious groups, organizations, and individuals have endorsed and promulgated the Earth Charter, and

WHEREAS the NYAC Board of Church & Society has in the past distributed copies of the Earth Charter (in English & Spanish) at Annual Conference sessions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NY Annual Conference endorse the Earth Charter and encourage congregations and individuals to do the same, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NYAC urge every local church to download, distribute, and discuss the Earth Charter and to work to implement its values and goals. The charter, along with a series of “Faith Study Guides,” on a variety of topics can be downloaded from www.earthcharterus.org. The Charter is available in 35 languages.

April 15, 2011

Co-sponsored by the NYAC Board of Church and Society (CBCS) and the NYAC Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

Signed by:

<i>Judy Stevens, chair, COSROW</i>	<i>(718-948-9703; jas116@aol.com)</i>
<i>Steve Phillips, vice chair, CBCS</i>	<i>(914-769-0357; steve@pleasantumc.org)</i>
<i>Jeff Wells, chair, CBCS</i>	<i>(917-604-5227; pastorwells1@verizon.net)</i>

PETITION #2011-AC304 – MATERNAL HEALTH: THE CHURCH’S ROLE

Concur: 107, Non-Concur: 1, Abstain:5; 99.1% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: None

*“I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
— John 10:10*

Motherhood is sacred. Women who are called to be mothers are entrusted by God to carry life within themselves and bring that new life into the world. Mothers are

important figures in our biblical tradition. Women like Eve, Hagar, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Mary the mother of Jesus are remembered for their role as bearers of new life. But within the sacred texts, there are also stories of maternal tragedy and loss. Both Rachel (Genesis 35: 16-20) and the wife of Phinehas (1 Samuel 4: 19-20) died after prolonged and difficult labors.

Tragically, stories of maternal death are commonplace today. For many women, especially those living in poverty and in developing countries, giving birth is dangerous and life-threatening. Worldwide maternal mortality is one of the leading causes of death for women of childbearing age. Every 90 seconds somewhere in the world a woman dies as a result of complications during pregnancy or childbirth,⁷ for every woman who dies, another twenty suffer disability.⁸ The main causes of maternal mortality include infection, hemorrhaging, high blood pressure, and obstructed labor and are mostly preventable.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples that he came to bring abundant life to his followers. God's desire is that every mother, every child, and every family not only survives, but thrives. Tragically, survival is often a daily struggle for those who lack access to basic services and care. God calls us to respond to the suffering in the world, to love our neighbors throughout the world. As followers of Christ, we are members of the same body, and the loss of one member is a loss for all.

The global community is taking steps to address the tragedy of maternal mortality. In 2000 the members of the United Nations established the eight Millennium Development Goals that set targets for improving health, reducing disease and poverty, and ensuring the human rights of all people. The fifth Millennium Development Goal, to improve maternal health, sets a goal of reducing maternal mortality by 75% by 2015. Maternal deaths have dropped by a third since 1990.⁹ While such progress is significant, increased efforts must be implemented globally in order to reach the 2015 target of 75% reduction. Maternal deaths occur throughout the world and exist in developed and developing countries. An example in the developed world is the reality that maternal mortality in the United States is on the rise. Since 1987 U.S. maternal deaths have doubled. Maternal mortality is a moral tragedy. Nearly all of the more than 350,000 annual maternal deaths occur in the developing world.¹⁰ There are many factors that contribute to this vast health inequality and inequity.

Health Barriers

In the developing world, many women of child-bearing age lack access to reproductive health services such as pre-natal care, post-natal care, and family planning services. This is particularly dangerous for women who are pregnant. Often with no hospitals or clinic nearby, women customarily give birth at home in unsanitary conditions, putting the woman and her baby at risk of infection. If, while in labor, a woman experiences a life-threatening complication at home, she may not be able to reach emergency care in time. Situations like these could be prevented if women had access to health information and medical care.

7 "On a Clock, a Grim Toll for Mothers," Clyde Haberman, *New York Times*, September 20, 2010.

8 "Fact Sheet: Motherhood and Human Rights," United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), August 2009.

9 "Maternal deaths worldwide drop by a third," World Health Organization, September 15, 2010.

10 "Fact Sheet: Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health," United Nations Department of Public Information," September 2010.

Unintended pregnancy is also a health concern. Globally, more than 200 million women would like to avoid or delay pregnancy but lack access to modern contraceptive services, resulting in millions of unintended pregnancies every year.¹¹ Supply shortages, lack of education, misinformation, and cultural barriers all contribute to this unmet need. Without access to contraceptives, women are unable to determine the timing and spacing of their children. This is of particular concern to women who have had children within the last two years, whose bodies may not have fully recovered, and to HIV-positive women whose immunity is compromised.

One of the key health interventions for reducing both maternal and infant mortality is birth spacing. When a woman spaces her pregnancies at least three years apart, she is more likely to have a healthy delivery, and her children are more likely to survive infancy.¹² If a woman becomes pregnant too soon after giving birth, her body does not have time to recover, and her risk for complications increases. In order to space her pregnancies in the healthiest manner, a woman must have access to safe, modern family planning services.

Providing family planning services to a woman is inexpensive, costing approximately \$2 a year, but the direct and indirect benefits of women planning their families are priceless and countless: smaller family size, better health for both children and mother, less economic burden on the family, and women's continued economic contribution to the greater community. By meeting all the unmet need for family planning, maternal mortality rates would drop by a third, and the need for abortion would be reduced significantly.¹³ Furthermore, the use of condoms reduces the risk of HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections (STIs). In particular, access to female condoms is crucial for empowering women to initiate their own protection against these infections.

Cultural Barriers

There are many cultural differences that complicate this issue. In many parts of the world, having a large family is a sign of honor. For men, having many children, especially boys, is a showcase of their masculinity and virility. Men who expect their wives to bear many children may not consider or support healthy birth spacing or family planning.

The expectation to birth many children comes not only from the husband, but also from other family members, particularly the mother-in-law. In some areas of the developing world, it is the mother-in-law who makes decisions regarding the use of contraceptives. Oftentimes such societal and familial pressures come into conflict with a woman's health and her own personal desires regarding her fertility.

Marrying age also has an impact on maternal health. The practice of child marriage is prevalent in many cultures, and girls marry and begin giving birth in their early adolescence. If these young women are not practicing family planning, they may have multiple children even before their twentieth birthday. Young women who have not yet fully developed physically at the time of marriage are at great risk for complications like obstetric fistula, a birth injury that leaves them incontinent.

11 "A Global Need for Family Planning," UNFPA, 2007.

12 "Healthier Mothers and Children Through Birth Spacing," USAID, June 2006.

13 Family Planning Saves Lives, Population Reference Bureau, 2009.

The Call

Women, who are crying out for not only their own survival but also the survival of their families and communities, deserve access to services and care that empower their personal decision-making. As a global church, we are called to eradicate systems of oppression and marginalization that inhibit women's health and well-being.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon all local congregations to:

1. Support United Methodist projects locally and globally working on maternal health and family planning.
2. Advocate with policy makers at all levels to improve maternal health through increased access to maternal health and family planning services.
3. Support local health initiatives that expand access to information and services for women's health, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NY Conference Board of Church & Society, through its Healthcare Team, will work with other Conference agencies to promote the implementation of this resolution and act as a resource for local congregations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the General Board of Church & Society to continue placing a programmatic emphasis on education and advocacy for the next quadrennium on maternal health.

April 15, 2011

Co-sponsored by the NYAC Board of Church and Society (CBCS) and the NYAC Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

Signed by:

Nancy Zukowski (healthcare team leader)

Steve Phillips, vice chair, CBCS (914-769-0357; steve@pleasantumc.org)

Jeff Wells, chair, CBCS (917-604-5227; pastorewells1@verizon.net)

Judy Stevens, chair, COSROW (718-948-9703; jas116@aol.com)

Dr. Dorothee Benz (718-314-4432; drbenz3@verizon.net)

PETITION #2011-AC305 – RESOLUTION: BAN HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES

Concur: 93, Non-Concur: 11, Abstain:4; 89.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: None

The recent massacre in Tucson, Arizona refocused our attention on the danger of high-capacity ammunition magazines. The shooter was able to rapidly fire at least 30 shots from one magazine, hitting 19 people, including Representative Giffords, killing 6, including a 9-year-old girl and a federal judge. The damage was limited to the firepower of his magazine; when it was empty, he was stopped while attempting to reload. Unfortunately, a large-capacity magazine enabled him to fire more than three times the rounds of a standard magazine. Many lives might have been saved if he was forced to reload 20 shots earlier.

WHEREAS proposed legislation, H.R.308/S.32, would make it unlawful to manufacture or transfer a high-capacity ammunition magazine capable of holding over 10 rounds. These magazines have been used in numerous mass shootings, including in Tucson, Virginia Tech, Fort Hood, and Columbine, but they are not useful for hunting or self-defense, and

WHEREAS banning high-capacity ammunition magazines is a sensible step to take in order to reduce gun violence and will make us all safer, and

WHEREAS as people of faith, inspired by the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, United Methodists seek to create a more just, peaceful and nonviolent world. We are called by God to do all that we can to protect innocent people from the threats posed by excessive and unnecessary levels of firepower. We work to protect all human beings from violence and support the passage of common-sense laws to keep our communities safe, and

WHEREAS Bishop Jeremiah Park has already signed a letter in support of banning high-capacity ammunition magazines, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference supports legislation to ban the manufacture or transfer of high-capacity ammunition magazines. We urge Congress to immediately pass H.R.308/S.32, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NYAC Secretary will forward a copy of this petition and Bishop Park's letter to the members of the Connecticut and New York Congressional delegations. The Board of Church and Society will forward this petition to the organization New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.

April 15, 2011

Co-sponsored by the NYAC Board of Church and Society (CBCS) and the NYAC Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

Signed by:

<i>Judy Stevens, chair, COSROW</i>	<i>(718-948-9703; jas116@aol.com)</i>
<i>Steve Phillips, vice chair, CBCS</i>	<i>(914-769-0357; steve@pleasantumc.org)</i>
<i>Jeff Wells, chair, CBCS</i>	<i>(917-604-5227; pastorwells1@verizon.net)</i>

PETITION #2011-AC306 – RESOLUTION: REMOVE THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE FROM FEDERAL GUN LAWS

Concur: 94, Non-Concur: 3, Abstain:2; 96.9% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: None

WHEREAS Federal law allows people who sell guns to avoid running background checks or keeping records by calling themselves occasional sellers, and these sellers often congregate at gun shows. The loophole provides criminals with easy access to firearms without having to worry about any background checks, and

WHEREAS thousands of lives could be saved each year by implementing smart and non-intrusive gun-violence-prevention laws that can strategically target places where legal guns are trafficked to illegal, underground markets. Closing the gun show loophole is a much needed step to achieve this goal and would not threaten gun

ownership for adults who have a legal right to own firearms. However, closing the gun show loophole would prevent many guns from falling into the hands of criminals and others who should not use them, and

WHEREAS under current law, Brady background checks of gun buyers are conducted only by federally licensed gun dealers, but in most states, unlicensed sellers are not required to conduct background checks at gun shows. Consequently, criminals and other dangerous individuals can walk into almost any gun show and buy weapons from unlicensed sellers, without being asked a single question. As a result of this loophole, gun shows have become a major venue for illegal gun trafficking, and

WHEREAS every year, thousands of guns flood the streets of New York State from other states because the interstate marketplace for illegal guns flourishes in states with weaker gun laws. In fact, ATF data shows that in New York State over 70% of all crime guns recovered come from other states. That number is even higher in New York City where over 90% of all crime guns come from other states. Easy access to firearms affects our safety, and the safety of our communities, and

WHEREAS to date, Brady background checks have stopped more than 1.8 million criminals and other prohibited persons from buying guns. Extending these checks to all gun show sales is an important next step that will help disrupt the flow of illegal gun trafficking, and will make us safer, and

WHEREAS as people of faith, inspired by the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, United Methodists seek to create a more just, peaceful and nonviolent world. We are called by God to do all that we can to protect innocent people from the threats posed by excessive and unnecessary levels of firepower. We work to protect all human beings from violence and support the passage of common-sense laws to keep our communities safe, and

WHEREAS Bishop Jeremiah Park has already signed a letter in support of closing the gun show loophole,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference urges Congress to pass legislation to close the gun show loophole, requiring criminal background checks by all firearms' sellers at gun shows. We urge New York and Connecticut Senators and Representatives to support the "Gun Show Loophole Closing Act" when it is reintroduced in the current session of Congress, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NYAC Secretary will forward a copy of this petition and Bishop Park's letter to the members of the Connecticut and New York Congressional delegations.

April 15, 2011

Co-sponsored by the NYAC Board of Church and Society (CBCS) and the NYAC Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

Signed by:

<i>Judy Stevens, chair, COSROW</i>	<i>(718-948-9703; jas116@aol.com)</i>
<i>Steve Phillips, vice chair, CBCS</i>	<i>(914-769-0357; steve@pleasantumc.org)</i>
<i>Jeff Wells, chair, CBCS</i>	<i>(917-604-5227; pastorwells1@verizon.net)</i>

PETITION #2011-AC307 – SUPPORT FOR “20/20: VISIONING AN AIDS-FREE WORLD”

Concur: 91, Non-Concur: 1, Abstain: 1; 98.9% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Financial Implications: None

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee has launched a campaign entitled “20/20: Visioning An AIDS-Free World,” the New York Annual Conference:

1. Endorses the “20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World” campaign.
2. Calls upon its churches in 2012 to devote at least 30 minutes discussing the pandemic and practical ways each congregation can respond.
3. Encourages churches to take action to combat stigmatization in local congregations and communities of those living with HIV/AIDS as well as their families.
4. Commits that 15 minutes of the 2012 New York Annual Conference plenary time be devoted to “20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World.”
5. Invites every church member to contribute yearly to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Advance #982345. Twenty-five percent of what the Annual Conference raises should be kept by and used within the conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects. The money kept by the Annual Conference will be administered by the Conference Board of Church and Society.
6. Asks individuals and congregations to join the 2020 Club comprised of those who have committed \$2020 by 2020 to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, and

Be it further resolved, that since words are best matched by action, we urge the 2012 New York Annual Conference session to take a special offering to support the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (Advance #982345).

April 15, 2011

Co-sponsored by the NYAC Board of Church and Society (CBCS), the NYAC Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), and Methodists in New Directions (MIND)

Signed by:

Nancy Zukowski, healthcare team leader, CBCS

(516-314-7140; nzukow@optonline.net)

Steve Phillips, vice chair, CBCS

(914-769-0357; steve@pleasantumc.org)

Jeff Wells, chair, CBCS

(917-604-5227; pastorwells1@verizon.net)

Judy Stevens, chair, COSROW

(718-948-9703; jas116@aol.com)

Dr. Dorothee Benz

(718-314-4432; drbenz3@verizon.net)

PETITION #2011-AC308 – MINISTRY TO THE MARGINALIZED: WELCOMING LGBT PEOPLE INTO NYAC

Concur: 118, Non-Concur: 22, Abstain:6; 84.2% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

WHEREAS Jesus lifted up the poor, welcomed women into his ministry, healed lepers, overturned the tables in the temple and was executed as a threat to religious and governmental authorities; he invited the outcast and the marginalized into God's kingdom and his ministry challenged the social norms of his day; and his call for us to follow him compels us to do the same, and

WHEREAS the church therefore has a special obligation to welcome and defend those on the margins of our own society and to work for equality and justice for them; these include the poor, immigrants, people of color, people of non-Christian faiths, people with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and we have a particular obligation to fight for those singled out by our own denomination for discrimination: lesbian and gay people, and

WHEREAS The UMC continues to lose members every year and a part of that decline can be traced to its prejudicial policies and pronouncements on homosexuality, which are offensive particularly to young people and which many rightly perceive as hypocritical from an organization that professes to follow Jesus, and

WHEREAS LGBT people face significant hostility, discrimination, threats and violence in our society; there are over 1,000 documented hate crimes against LGBT people every year; anti-gay bullying in our schools is epidemic, 85% of LGBT students report harassment because of their sexual orientation and 40% have been physically assaulted; 25-40% of homeless youth are LGBT; and the suicide rate among LGBT teens is two to three times the rate of suicide among other youth, and

WHEREAS The UMC's and other Christian churches' own anti-gay positions and policies fuel bias against LGBT people and the church must bear responsibility for contributing to the violence against LGBT people, and

WHEREAS Christians become complicit in the physical and spiritual violence suffered by LGBT people when they do not speak out against their church's prejudice against LGBT people, and

WHEREAS the vast majority of LGBT people think that Christianity is a homophobic religion and do not feel welcome in Christian churches, and

WHEREAS no amount of advertising inviting people to “rethink church” will change the perception of Methodism as homophobic if it is not accompanied by an explicit repudiation of The UMC’s prejudice and discrimination, and

WHEREAS the New York Annual Conference has stood in firm, consistent and persistent opposition to The UMC’s prejudice and discrimination against gay and lesbian people for over three decades.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference advertise in New York and Connecticut LGBT publications and express in these advertisements its heartfelt regret for the harm inflicted on LGBT people through The UMC’s homophobia and discrimination, and further share in these advertisements that NYAC has long been opposed to the discriminatory parts of UMC policy on homosexuality and welcome and invite LGBT people to worship in NYAC churches, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following shall be the text used in the advertisements:

The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist church welcomes ALL God’s children, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We want members of LGBT communities to know that we do not share our denomination’s belief that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” and we are deeply sorry for the harm that this belief has caused. We are working within The UMC to change its prejudiced policies.

We invite you to join us!

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ads shall be placed in publications that span the Conference’s geographic jurisdiction, with the following publications recommended: the New York City Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center’s 2012 Annual Pride Guide; the LOFT’s CNEWS newsletter; the Long Island GLBT Community Center’s Business Directory; the Hudson Valley LGBT Community Center’s Business Directory; the Triangle Community Center’s News and Views newsletter; Next Magazine; and Go Magazine, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the oversight and responsibility for seeing through the placement of these advertisements shall be handled by a committee constituted for this purpose and consisting of the following: one person from the New York Annual Conference, appointed by the Bishop; one person from the Conference Board of Church and Society, appointed by the chair of the CBCS; one person from Methodists in New Directions, appointed by the chair of MIND. These appointments shall be made no later than September 2011 and this committee shall meet no later than September 2011, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no Conference funds shall be involved in the production, promotion or placement of these advertisements and these advertisements be entirely paid for through voluntary contributions to be received by MIND.

Submitted and endorsed by Methodists in New Directions, the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Helen Andrew
 Rev. Dale Ashby
 Rev. Stephen Bauman
 Ron Bennett
 Dr. Dorothee Benz
 Maggie Carr
 Rev. John Carr
 Rev. Dr. Mark H.
 Chatterton
 Rev. Kun Sam Cho
 Rev. John Collins
 Deaconess Darlene
 DiDomineck
 Jayson Dobney
 Rev. George C.
 Engelhardt

Carolyn Hardin
 Engelhardt
 Rev. Vicky A. Fleming
 Glen Hoffs
 Rev. Edward Horne
 Robert G. Hunsinger
 Rev. Taka Ishii
 Wongee Joh
 Rev. Lucy Jones
 Rev. K Karpen
 Rev. Kwang-Il Kim
 Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling
 Rev. Hector Laporta
 Jorge Lockward
 Nehemiah Luckett
 Rev. Evelyn McDonald

Home Missioner Kevin M.
 Nelson
 Rev. Richard S. Parker
 Charlotte Patton
 Rev. Kenneth W. Prill
 Jim Ring
 Rev. Timothy J. Riss
 Siobhan Sargent
 Rev. Denise Smartt Sears
 Rev. Judy Stevens
 Rev. Scott Summerville
 Rev. Sara Thompson
 Tweedy
 Rev. Ronald Tompkins
 Marilyn VanTine
 Rev. Martha Vink
 Rev. Javier Viera

PETITION #2011-AC309 – WITNESS AGAINST HATE VIOLENCE

Concur: 93, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain:0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

WHEREAS in 2010 the New York Annual Conference passed a resolution drawing attention to the problem of hate crimes in the United States and calling on the Conference to “commit itself to an active ministry opposing bigotry, hatred and violence in all its forms” and further resolving “that our clergy preach and teach about the sins of hate and bigotry and the Christian imperative to respond; and that they lift up the common humanity of victims of hate crimes, whether targeted for their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, sex, economic status, immigration status, disability, or any other characteristic,” and

WHEREAS since the passage of that resolution, there have been a number of high-profile and highly disturbing incidents of hate violence within the geographic jurisdiction of the Conference, most notably the horrific abduction, torture and sexual assault of three gay men in the Bronx in October 2010, as well as other incidents including an unprecedented spate of hate crime attacks on Latin Americans in Staten Island and the slashing of a Muslim cab driver; beyond these headlines, the majority of reported hate crimes in New York have targeted our Jewish and Black neighbors; and while official FBI statistics indicate a decline in reported hate crimes in the U.S. for the last year those numbers are available (2009), both New York and Connecticut saw an increase in that same timeframe; nationally, violence against gay people also continued to rise, and

WHEREAS since the passage of our 2010 resolution there have also been positive developments in the combatting of hate violence, including the passage of the federal Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; and more humbly and locally, the My Brother’s Keeper: People of Faith Confront Hate Crimes symposium that brought together 150 people from NYAC and was sponsored by an unprecedented coalition of Conference-wide organizations, and

WHEREAS those gathered at the My Brother’s Keeper event came away from that day with a profound understanding that the symposium represented but a beginning of the critical work of combatting hate violence and the prejudices and hate speech that fuel it; and that above all, we must not be silent in the face of bias and bigotry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference publicly and swiftly react to acts of hate violence that take place in its geographic jurisdiction, so that the world may know that Christ's people are opposed to hate violence and so that the victims and the communities of the victims may know that we stand with them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage local congregations to study and discuss the problem of hate crimes together as a community; and that the conference help provide appropriate study materials, and specifically, that for the next year (from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012) the conference provide the following on its Web site, once a month in the "News from the Annual Conference" email and twice in that year in *The Vision*: a short sentence or two encouraging such study along with a link to the My Brother's Keeper resource materials (on the Methodists in New Directions Web site), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we especially encourage multiple congregations to come together across differences such as race or ethnicity and undertake such studies together; and that district superintendents help facilitate such multi-congregational studies by reviewing all churches in their district to identify appropriate cross-racial or cross-ethnic pairings or groupings, and then speaking with leaders from those congregations and providing them with the My Brother's Keeper Web site information at District Action Days, charge conferences and one-on-one yearly meetings with clergy.

Submitted and endorsed by the Conference Board of Church and Society, the Conference Commission on Race and Religion, the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Conference Immigration Task Force, Methodists in New Directions and the Methodist Federation for Social Action.

Rev. Hermon Darden
Ximena A. Varas, CLM
Wongee Joh

Rev. Hector Laporta
Rev. Evelyn McDonald
Home Missioner Kevin M.

Nelson
Rev. Pauline Wardell-

Sankoh
Rev. George C.
Engelhardt

Carolyn Hardin
Engelhardt

Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold
Rev. William F. Wendler
Rev. Herbert Miller

Rev. Vicki Flippin
Dr. Dorothee Benz
Rev. Kristen Dunn
Rev. Scott Summerville

Helen Andrew
Jayson Dobney

Rev. Lucy Jones
Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling

Rev. Judy Stevens
Rev. Jeff Wells
Nehemiah Luckett

Charlotte Patton
Siobhan Sargent
Rev. Sara Thompson
Tweedy

Marilyn VanTine
Rev. Martha Vink

PETITION #2011-AC310 – ASSAULT ON THE WORKING CLASS: SOLIDARITY WITH WORKING PEOPLE AND THEIR UNIONS

Concur: 75, Non-Concur: 13, Abstain:3; 85.2% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

WHEREAS wealth and poverty are enduring themes in scripture, and both the Old Testament and the New Testament are filled with prophetic admonitions to treat the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable justly and compassionately, and

WHEREAS General Conference has long asserted these "basic principles" learned from scripture, including the right to collective bargaining (§163.B), a living wage and safe working conditions, (§163.C), fair treatment of foreign workers (§163.F), and the 2008 General Conference adopted a resolution stating: "all workers should be treated with respect and dignity, disparities of wealth and poverty should be avoided, workers should earn wages that sustain themselves and their families, and employers have a particular responsibility to treat workers fairly and empower them to organize to improve conditions," and

WHEREAS according to Joseph E. Stiglitz, economist, professor at Columbia University, and former senior vice president and chief economist of the World Bank, in his May 2011 article in *Vanity Fair*, “Of the 1%, by the 1%, for the 1%,” “Virtually all U.S. senators, and most of the representatives in the House, are members of the top 1 percent when they arrive, are kept in office by money from the top 1 percent, and know that if they serve the top 1 percent well they will be rewarded by the top 1 percent when they leave office. By and large, the key executive-branch policymakers on trade and economic policy also come from the top 1 percent,” and

WHEREAS with the wealthiest in charge and the recent weakening of restrictions on their influence via the Supreme Court ruling in the *Citizens United* case, which removed the restrictions on corporate contributions to independent political broadcasts in political campaigns, the economic order has been designed in such a way, according to Stiglitz, to “encourage competition among countries for *business*, which drives down taxes on corporations, weakens health and environmental protections, and undermines what used to be viewed as the ‘core’ labor rights, which include the right to collective bargaining,” and

WHEREAS in an alternative construction of the economic order which would instead focus on competition for workers, “Governments would compete in providing economic security, low taxes on ordinary wage earners, good education, and a clean environment—things workers care about,” and

WHEREAS General Conference has affirmed that providing for basic human needs, including food, clothing, shelter, education, health and other necessities, requires a more equitable sharing of resources (§163.E), and

WHEREAS given the reality that the wealthiest, not the middle or lower, classes control the economic and political power in this country, the most common and most effective means that ordinary people have found for addressing economic tyranny and social inequality have been the organization of trade unions to give them a collective voice, and

WHEREAS the history of the labor movement in the United States is a particularly bloody one, a history of working men and women who found incredible courage to organize and assert a right to decent wages and work conditions and were met again and again with violent and often deadly repression from both employers and the state, and

WHEREAS one such example, one that finally resulted in some transformation, took place 100 years ago this year in New York City in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire when 146 garment workers, mostly young women, were killed in the deadliest workplace disaster in the history of New York City prior to September 11, 2001, due to the lack of safe working conditions and adequate factory safety standard, and

WHEREAS U.S. workers and their unions, aided at times by larger economic, social and political forces, fought for and won over the course of decades a framework of rights and social conditions that we now take for granted; these rights include child labor laws, the right to organize, minimum wage and maximum hour statutes (the laws that gave us the weekend!), Social Security, unemployment benefits, Medicare and Medicaid, among others; these rights, paid for in blood by the lives of countless workers, lifted millions out of poverty, mitigated inequality and fueled the post-war economy, and

WHEREAS these rights have been under sustained attack from employers for four decades now, and, since the presidency of Ronald Reagan, also from the state; as a result, in those four decades, private-sector unionism has been decimated, and in 2010 less than 7% of private-sector workers had union representation and protection, and

WHEREAS as a direct consequence of the weakening of organized labor in the last 40 years, wages have stagnated while CEO pay has soared, a majority of American workers no longer have pension benefits, an epidemic number of working families lack health insurance, tax rates for the wealthy and corporations have plummeted, and social services for the poor have been slashed as public budgets have been starved, and

WHEREAS income inequality is now at the highest level ever recorded in U.S. history, with the top 1% of Americans receiving 33% of the nation's income and controlling 40% of the nation's wealth, up from 12% and 33% just 25 years ago, and

WHEREAS 2011 has witnessed a fresh and particularly alarming round of attacks on the rights of working people, most notably on public-sector unions; the bill in Wisconsin that stripped most public employees of their collective bargaining rights garnered national attention, but proposals to roll back worker rights were considered this year in at least 38 states, including 20 where collective bargaining rights were under assault, and attacks on union rights and pensions were being debated in both New York and Connecticut as of the writing of this resolution, and

WHEREAS these recent attacks on public-sector unions are especially significant in light of the successful efforts to curtail private-sector unions; public-sector unions are the only remaining institutions in the United States with the scale and capacity to act as an effective counterforce to the agenda of wealthy and corporate interests, and without unions we cannot have a democratic society in any meaningful sense of the word, and

WHEREAS these facts amount to a reality that there has been long-standing class warfare in this nation—it's just been one-sided and mostly gone unacknowledged.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York Annual Conference publicly and vocally support the rights of *ALL* workers to organize and bargain collectively, including public- and private-sector workers, documented and undocumented workers, and workers currently covered under labor laws as well as those still largely excluded from them, namely, farm workers and domestic workers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such support should come in the following forms:

1. Calling on all of its members, lay and clergy, its congregations and its appropriate agencies, committees and other bodies to be actively involved in working to defend and extend workers' rights, and specifically that the conference urge congregations to join their nearest affiliate of the Interfaith Worker Justice movement (an official partner of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society), which in New York is the New York Labor-Religion Coalition and in Connecticut is the Connecticut Center for a New Economy, and join their campaigns, and
2. That the New York Annual Conference, no later than September 1, 2011, send a copy of this resolution to the governors of New York and Connecticut and to every state legislator of New York and Connecticut as well as to the New York Labor-Religion Coalition, the Connecticut Center for a New Economy, the New York State AFL-CIO and the Connecticut AFL-CIO, urging their continued support, defense, and extension of both public sector employees' and private sector workers' rights.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action, the Conference Board of Church and Society and Park Slope UMC in Brooklyn (adopted by the Church Council on April 14th, 2011).

<i>Rev. Dale Ashby</i>	<i>Rev. Vicky A. Fleming</i>	<i>Rev. Richard Parker</i>
<i>Dr. Dorothee Benz</i>	<i>Rev. Ed Horne</i>	<i>Rev. Steve Phillips</i>
<i>Rev. Elizabeth Braddon</i>	<i>Rev. Lucy Jones</i>	<i>Rev. Timothy J. Riss</i>
<i>Rev. John Collins</i>	<i>Rev. George McClain</i>	<i>Rev. Finley Schaeff</i>
<i>Rev. Doug Cunningham</i>	<i>Rev. Evy McDonald</i>	<i>Rev. Judy Stevens</i>
<i>Deaconess Darlene</i>	<i>Deaconess Amanda</i>	<i>Rev. Charles Straut</i>
<i>DiDomineck</i>	<i>Mountain</i>	<i>Rev. Jeff Wells</i>
<i>Rev. Rick Edwards</i>	<i>Home Missioner Kevin M.</i>	
	<i>Nelson</i>	

PETITION #2011-GC301 – PASTORAL DUTY

Concur: 118, Non-Concur: 27, Abstain: 6; 81.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Pastoral Duty
Discipline Paragraph:	¶341.6
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	Yes

Delete ¶341.6

¶ 341. *Unauthorized Conduct*—

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

Rationale:

Violation of ¶2002 and ¶2102, which guarantee a full and equal responsibility and participation of all people, particularly for women and racial ethnic persons in the life of The United Methodist Church.

Submitted and endorsed by:

Clergy:	<i>Eric Fjeldal</i>	<i>Vicki Flippin</i>
<i>Taka Ishii</i>	<i>Caroly Gibson</i>	<i>Karen Karpow</i>
<i>Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii</i>	<i>Evelyn McDonald</i>	<i>Dick Yerrington</i>
<i>Dennis Winkleblack</i>	<i>Lucy Porter</i>	<i>Sharon Miller</i>
<i>Wilmer Wolf</i>	<i>Paul Fleck</i>	<i>Lorraine DeArmitt</i>
<i>Stephen Bauman</i>	<i>Carol Bloom</i>	<i>Bryan Hooper</i>
<i>Walter Barton</i>	<i>Kevan Hitch</i>	<i>Betty Lines</i>
<i>Kun Sam Cho</i>	<i>John Brown</i>	<i>Martha Epstein</i>
<i>Hector Laporta</i>	<i>Thomas Smoot</i>	<i>Elizabeth Jones</i>
<i>George Engelhardt</i>	<i>Eric Fjeldal</i>	<i>Matt Curry</i>
<i>Brian Bodt</i>	<i>John Capen</i>	<i>Bob Knebel</i>
<i>Woody Eddins</i>	<i>Bruce Anspach</i>	<i>Wongee Joh</i>
<i>Virginia Carle</i>	<i>Mel Kawakami</i>	<i>Dorothy Weigert</i>
<i>Hal Vink</i>	<i>Kevin Mulqueen</i>	<i>Judy Stevens</i>
<i>Agnes Saffoury</i>	<i>Dick Parker</i>	<i>Margaret Laemmel</i>
<i>Walter Schenck</i>	<i>Vicky Fleming</i>	<i>Richard Rice</i>
<i>Erik Rasmussen</i>	<i>Craig Fitzsimmons</i>	<i>Elizabeth Schrader</i>
<i>Ron Tompkins</i>	<i>Dale Ashby</i>	<i>Jim Stinson</i>
<i>Janet Porcher</i>	<i>Charles Straut</i>	<i>Tim Riss</i>
<i>Will Nichols</i>	<i>Jody Cross-Hansen</i>	<i>Herb Miller</i>
<i>Sara Thompson Tweedy</i>	<i>Hermon Darden</i>	<i>Alexis Carol</i>

<i>Mark Chatterton</i>	<i>Susan B. Blanchard</i>	<i>Lorie Evans</i>
<i>Lori Miller</i>	<i>Terry Todd</i>	<i>Lindsay Evans</i>
<i>John Carr</i>	<i>Deborah Moore</i>	<i>Mary Anne Shail</i>
<i>Sara Lamar-Sterling</i>	<i>Donna Orlando</i>	<i>John Shail</i>
<i>Ed Horne</i>	<i>Ximena A. Varas</i>	<i>Dorothee Benz</i>
<i>Albert Miller</i>	<i>Patricia Longway</i>	<i>Kevin Nelson</i>
Laity:	<i>Jane Wakeman</i>	<i>Maggie Carr</i>
<i>Melodye Merola</i>	<i>June Sibley-Prusak</i>	<i>Sylvia Wagner</i>
<i>Roena Littlejohn</i>	<i>Terry Parker</i>	<i>Natalie Gunter</i>
<i>Mark Davies</i>	<i>Margie Betts</i>	<i>Amy Gunter</i>
<i>Jane Vink</i>	<i>Barbara Stinson</i>	<i>Catherine Gunter</i>
<i>Fred Brammer</i>	<i>Evian Crosdale</i>	<i>Marilyn Smith</i>
<i>Patricia Brammer</i>	<i>Sandra Ericson</i>	<i>Carol Hartney</i>
<i>Kathryn Dickinson</i>	<i>John Sibley-Prusak</i>	<i>Pat Galgan</i>
<i>Robert Hunsinger</i>	<i>Laura Kurimai</i>	<i>Belle Kicinski</i>
<i>Joan Mallory</i>	<i>Phyllis Machledt</i>	<i>Sandra Laurens</i>
<i>Glen Hoffs</i>	<i>Jennifer Dale</i>	<i>Christina Stack</i>
<i>James Harvey</i>	<i>Mary Unfricht</i>	<i>Lisa Larsen Hill</i>
<i>Robert A. Lukey</i>	<i>Pamela Kurimai</i>	<i>Amy Stack</i>
<i>Carolyn Hardin</i>	<i>Emily Evina</i>	<i>Kimberly Stack</i>
<i>Engelhardt</i>	<i>William Brown</i>	<i>Lois Hunt</i>
<i>Arthur A. Blanchard</i>	<i>Janice Brown</i>	<i>Marion Ramsey Miller</i>
	<i>Janet Yannicky</i>	

PETITION #2011-GC302 – A FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Concur: 123, Non-Concur: 22, Abstain:4; 84.8% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	A Full and Equal Participation in the Life of The United Methodist Church
Discipline Paragraph:	¶304.3
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	Yes

Amend ¶304.3 as follows:

304. Qualifications for Ordination—

3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. ~~The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

Rationale:

Violation of ¶2002 and ¶2102, which guarantee a full and equal responsibility and participation of all people, particularly for women and racial ethnic persons in the life of The United Methodist Church.

Submitted and endorsed by:

Clergy:

Taka Ishii
 Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii
 Dennis Winkleblack
 Wilmer Wolf
 Stephen Bauman
 Walter Barton
 Kun Sam Cho
 Hector Laporta
 George Engelhardt
 Brian Bodt
 Woody Eddins
 Virginia Carle
 Hal Vink
 Agnes Saffoury
 Walter Schenck
 Erik Rasmussen
 Ron Tompkins
 Janet Porcher
 Will Nichols
 Sara Thompson Tweedy
 Eric Fjeldal
 Caroly Gibson
 Evelyn McDonald
 Lucy Porter
 Paul Fleck
 Carol Bloom
 Kevan Hitch
 John Brown
 Thomas Smoot
 Eric Fjeldal
 John Capen
 Bruce Anspach
 Mel Kawakami
 Kevin Mulqueen
 Dick Parker
 Vicky Fleming
 Craig Fitzsimmons
 Dale Ashby
 Charles Straut
 Jody Cross-Hansen
 Hermon Darden

Vicki Flippin
 Karen Karpow
 Dick Yerrington
 Sharon Miller
 Lorraine DeArmitt
 Bryan Hooper
 Betty Lines
 Martha Epstein
 Elizabeth Jones
 Matt Curry
 Bob Knebel
 Wongee Joh
 Dorothy Weigert
 Judy Stevens
 Margaret Laemmel
 Richard Rice
 Elizabeth Schrader
 Jim Stinson
 Tim Riss
 Herb Miller
 Alexis Carol
 Mark Chatterton
 Lori Miller
 John Carr
 Sara Lamar-Sterling
 Ed Horne
 Albert Miller
Laity:
 Melodye Merola
 Roena Littlejohn
 Mark Davies
 Jane Vink
 Fred Brammer
 Patricia Brammer
 Kathryn Dickinson
 Robert Hunsinger
 Joan Mallory
 Glen Hoffs
 James Harvey
 Robert A. Lukey
 Carolyn Hardin
 Engelhardt
 Arthur A. Blanchard
 Susan B. Blanchard

Terry Todd
 Deborah Moore
 Donna Orlando
 Ximena A. Varas
 Patricia Longway
 Jane Wakeman
 June Sibley-Prusak
 Terry Parker
 Margie Betts
 Barbara Stinson
 Evian Crosdale
 Sandra Ericson
 John Sibley-Prusak
 Laura Kurimai
 Phyllis Machledt
 Jennifer Dale
 Mary Unfricht
 Pamela Kurimai
 Emily Evina
 William Brown
 Janice Brown
 Janet Yamnicky
 Lorie Evans
 Lindsay Evans
 Mary Anne Shail
 John Shail
 Dorothee Benz
 Kevin Nelson
 Maggie Carr
 Sylvia Wagner
 Natalie Gunter
 Amy Gunter
 Catherine Gunter
 Marilyn Smith
 Carol Hartney
 Pat Galgan
 Belle Kicinski
 Sandra Laurens
 Christina Stack
 Lisa Larsen Hill
 Amy Stack
 Kimberly Stack
 Lois Hunt
 Marion Ramsey Miller

PETITION #2011-GC303 – FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CLERGY

Concur: 122, Non-Concur: 24, Abstain: 2; 83.6% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages: 1
 Suggested Title: Full and Equal Participation of the United Methodist Clergy
 Discipline Paragraph: ¶2702.1(b)
 General Church Budget Implications: None
 Global Implications: Yes

Delete ¶2702.1(b)

CHARGEABLE OFFENSES AND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

~~¶ 2702.1. (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~

Rationale:

Violation of ¶2002 and ¶2102, which guarantee a full and equal responsibility and participation of all people, particularly for women and racial ethnic persons in the life of The United Methodist Church.

Submitted and endorsed by:

<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>Carol Bloom</i>	<i>Bob Knebel</i>
<i>Taka Ishii</i>	<i>Kevan Hitch</i>	<i>Wongee Joh</i>
<i>Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii</i>	<i>John Brown</i>	<i>Dorothy Weigert</i>
<i>Dennis Winkleblack</i>	<i>Thomas Smoot</i>	<i>Judy Stevens</i>
<i>Wilmer Wolf</i>	<i>Eric Fjeldal</i>	<i>Margaret Laemmel</i>
<i>Stephen Bauman</i>	<i>John Capen</i>	<i>Richard Rice</i>
<i>Walter Barton</i>	<i>Bruce Anspach</i>	<i>Elizabeth Schrader</i>
<i>Kun Sam Cho</i>	<i>Mel Kawakami</i>	<i>Jim Stinson</i>
<i>Hector Laporta</i>	<i>Kevin Mulqueen</i>	<i>Tim Riss</i>
<i>George Engelhardt</i>	<i>Dick Parker</i>	<i>Herb Miller</i>
<i>Brian Bodt</i>	<i>Vicky Fleming</i>	<i>Alexis Carol</i>
<i>Woody Eddins</i>	<i>Craig Fitzsimmons</i>	<i>Mark Chatterton</i>
<i>Virginia Carle</i>	<i>Dale Ashby</i>	<i>Lori Miller</i>
<i>Hal Vink</i>	<i>Charles Straut</i>	<i>John Carr</i>
<i>Agnes Saffoury</i>	<i>Jody Cross-Hansen</i>	<i>Sara Lamar-Sterling</i>
<i>Walter Schenck</i>	<i>Hermon Darden</i>	<i>Ed Horne</i>
<i>Erik Rasmussen</i>	<i>Vicki Flippin</i>	<i>Albert Miller</i>
<i>Ron Tompkins</i>	<i>Karen Karpow</i>	<i>Laity:</i>
<i>Janet Porcher</i>	<i>Dick Yerrington</i>	<i>Melodye Merola</i>
<i>Will Nichols</i>	<i>Sharon Miller</i>	<i>Roena Littlejohn</i>
<i>Sara Thompson Tweedy</i>	<i>Lorraine DeArmitt</i>	<i>Mark Davies</i>
<i>Eric Fjeldal</i>	<i>Bryan Hooper</i>	<i>Jane Vink</i>
<i>Caroly Gibson</i>	<i>Betty Lines</i>	<i>Fred Brammer</i>
<i>Evelyn McDonald</i>	<i>Martha Epstein</i>	<i>Patricia Brammer</i>
<i>Lucy Porter</i>	<i>Elizabeth Jones</i>	<i>Kathryn Dickinson</i>
<i>Paul Fleck</i>	<i>Matt Curry</i>	<i>Robert Hunsinger</i>

<i>Joan Mallory</i>	<i>Evian Crosdale</i>	<i>Kevin Nelson</i>
<i>Glen Hoffs</i>	<i>Sandra Ericson</i>	<i>Maggie Carr</i>
<i>James Harvey</i>	<i>John Sibley-Prusak</i>	<i>Sylvia Wagner</i>
<i>Robert A. Lukey</i>	<i>Laura Kurimai</i>	<i>Natalie Gunter</i>
<i>Carolyn Hardin</i>	<i>Phyllis Machledt</i>	<i>Amy Gunter</i>
<i>Engelhardt</i>	<i>Jennifer Dale</i>	<i>Catherine Gunter</i>
<i>Arthur A. Blanchard</i>	<i>Mary Unfricht</i>	<i>Marilyn Smith</i>
<i>Susan B. Blanchard</i>	<i>Pamela Kurimai</i>	<i>Carol Hartney</i>
<i>Terry Todd</i>	<i>Emily Evina</i>	<i>Pat Galgan</i>
<i>Deborah Moore</i>	<i>William Brown</i>	<i>Belle Kicinski</i>
<i>Donna Orlando</i>	<i>Janice Brown</i>	<i>Sandra Laurens</i>
<i>Ximena A. Varas</i>	<i>Janet Yamnicky</i>	<i>Christina Stack</i>
<i>Patricia Longway</i>	<i>Lorie Evans</i>	<i>Lisa Larsen Hill</i>
<i>Jane Wakeman</i>	<i>Lindsay Evans</i>	<i>Amy Stack</i>
<i>June Sibley-Prusak</i>	<i>Mary Anne Shail</i>	<i>Kimberly Stack</i>
<i>Terry Parker</i>	<i>John Shail</i>	<i>Lois Hunt</i>
<i>Margie Betts</i>	<i>Dorothee Benz</i>	<i>Marion Ramsey Miller</i>
<i>Barbara Stinson</i>		

PETITION #2011-GC304 – GENERAL CHURCH ETHICS POLICIES

Concur: 114, Non-Concur: 6, Abstain:14; 95% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	General Church Ethics Policies
<i>Discipline</i> Paragraph:	¶702
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend ¶702 as follows, inserting a new point 2 after ¶702.1:

¶702. *Amenability and Program Accountability* –

2. All official General Church organizations, groups, committees, councils, boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall adopt a code of ethics and policies regarding conflict of interest, confidentiality, whistleblower protection, record retention and document destruction and nepotism applicable to both members and employees.

Rationale:

Religious organizations are not immune to the need for transparency and accountability. These types of policies are an attempt to try to ensure all decisions are made with the best interests and sacred fiduciary duties that the church is entrusted with in mind, and not for the benefit of any individual's personal interests; they also convey a strong message both internally and externally about the culture and values of the organization and such policies lead us toward a more ethical living out of the gospel.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action

Rev. Dale Ashby, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. Lorraine De Armitt, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James "K" Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC305 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Concur: 119, Non-Concur: 22, Abstain:4; 84.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Marriage Equality
<i>Discipline</i> Paragraph:	¶161B
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend ¶161B as follows:

¶ 161. II. THE NURTURING COMMUNITY

B) Marriage—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman~~. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. ~~We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.~~

Rationale:

Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armit, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC306 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Concur: 119, Non-Concur: 22, Abstain:5; 84.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Marriage Equality
<i>Discipline</i> Paragraph:	¶161F
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend ¶161F as follows:

¶ 161. II. THE NURTURING COMMUNITY

F) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are

married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

Rationale:

Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armitt, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC307 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Concur: 127, Non-Concur: 12, Abstain: 7; 91.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Marriage Equality
Discipline Paragraph:	¶162J
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend ¶162J as follows:

¶ 162. III. THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY

J) 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 all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, civil marriage, civil unions, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.

Rationale:

Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armit, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC308 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Concur: 121, Non-Concur: 26, Abstain:2; 82.3% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Marriage Equality
Discipline Paragraph:	¶311.2
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend Footnote 3 of ¶311.2 (d) as follows (Found in the twelfth paragraph of the footnote, on p. 215 of the 2008 BOD):

¶ 311. Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry—

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that “we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman~~. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.” Also, “we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single.”

Rationale:

This proposal corresponds to a proposal that would delete the same language in ¶161B. *Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions:*

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armit, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin,

Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC309 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Concur: 117, Non-Concur: 25, Abstain:5; 82.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Marriage Equality
Discipline Paragraph:	¶341.6
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend ¶341.6 as follows:**¶341. Unauthorized Conduct –**

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

Rationale:

Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armitt, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC310 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Concur: 117, Non-Concur: 25, Abstain:5; 82.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	Marriage Equality
Discipline Paragraph:	¶2702.1
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	None

Amend ¶2702.1 as follows:**CHARGEABLE OFFENSES AND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

¶ 2702. 1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶2702.4)* with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;** (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies

~~which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~

Rationale:

Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Dr. Dorothee Benz, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. John Collins, Rev. Doug Cunningham, Rev. Lorraine De Armitt, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC311 – GENERAL CHURCH ETHICS POLICIES

Concur: 96, Non-Concur: 29, Abstain:6; 76.8% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	General Church Ethics Policies
Discipline Paragraph:	¶5
General Church Budget Implications:	None
Global Implications:	Yes

Amend The Constitution, Division One—General, inserting new article/paragraph after ¶5, Article V, as follows:

All official general church organizations, councils, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church and all Annual Conferences shall adopt a code of ethics and conflict of interest policy, applicable to both members and employees.

Rationale:

Religious organizations are not immune to the need for transparency and accountability. These types of policies are an attempt to try to ensure all decisions are made with the best interests and sacred fiduciary duties that the church is entrusted with in mind, and not for the benefit of any individual’s personal interests; they also convey a strong message both internally and externally about the culture and values of the organization and such policies lead us toward a more ethical living out of the gospel.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action:

Rev. Dale Ashby, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Braddon, Rev. Lorraine De Armitt, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Rev. Richard Edwards, Rev. Vicky Fleming, Rev. Vicki Flippin, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Jim Harvey, Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. James “K” Karpen, Rev. David, Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy Riss, Rev. Bette J. Sohm, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Charles Straut, Rev. James P. Veatch, Laura C. Veatch

PETITION #2011-GC312 – EXPAND THE MANDATE OF GCORR*Legislative Section referred to Plenary. NYAC conference session: not adopted***PETITION #2011-GC313 – A CALL FOR PEACE MARCH TO END THE KOREAN WAR***Concur: 111, Non-Concur: 3, Abstain:8; 97.4% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted*

Total Number of Pages:	1
Suggested Title:	A Call for Peace March to End the Korean War
Resolution Number:	#6100—Korea: Peace, Justice, and Reunification
General Church Budget Implications:	No
Global Implications:	Yes

Rationale:

WHEREAS *The Book of Resolutions* contains “Korea: Peace, Justice, and Reunification,” a comprehensive resolution on Korea’s peace, first adopted in 1988 and then amended and readopted in 2000, 2004, and 2008, and

WHEREAS the year 2013 marks the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War, and

WHEREAS the cycle of 60 years marks a new beginning in Asia, a concept similar to the biblical Jubilee, and

BE IT RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church proclaim the message of God’s peace and reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula on July 27, 2013 on the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War and implement the following actions:

- a. Organize a peace march at the Demilitarized Zone in Korea on July 27, 2013 led by United Methodist Episcopal leaders.
- b. Organize a peace march in Washington D.C. on July 27, 2013.
- c. Seek the support for these peace marches from the Korean Methodist Church, the World Methodist Council, the National Council of Churches of the United States, and the World Council of Churches.
- d. Organize a taskforce for peace in Korea to prepare for these peace marches.

Submitted by the Committee on Reunification of the Korean American National Association of The United Methodist Church

Date: March 21, 2011

Signature of the Petitioner: Kun Sam Cho, Chair of the Committee on Reunification of the Korean American National Association of The United Methodist Church

1089 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06825, 914-319-4241, Kunsamcho@gmail.com