

2005 NCNY CONFERENCE JOURNAL
V. STANDING POLICIES, RULES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Conference Proceedings and Reports

[Revised for 2002 Annual Conference Session; Amended at 2005 Session]

1. General Policies:
 - A. Policies and procedures that are incorporated in the Strategic Plan adopted in 2003 and the Ministry Plan adopted in 2004, are recognized as the ongoing policies and procedures of the North Central New York Conference.
 - B. Plan policies may be amended by the Conference at any session by a majority vote.
 - C. The official Rules of Order for the Conference shall be The Rules of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, as far as the Rules apply. Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern all procedural questions where The Rules of the General Conference cannot be applied. Exceptions to these rules must be approved by the Conference and included in section 3 below.

2. Procedures for Submitting Reports, Proposals, Resolutions:
 - A. All proposals for Conference action shall be submitted to the Conference office by the deadlines set by the Annual Conference, in order that they may be distributed to Conference members in advance of the opening session in either the Pre-Conference publication or the on-site packet.
 - B. Reports and resolutions/action items for inclusion in the Pre-Conference publication shall be received in the Conference Office by the fourth Wednesday in March.
 - C. All materials from the various boards and agencies of the North Central New York Annual Conference seeking action on the part of the Conference shall be included in the Pre-Conference publication in order to be considered "in order" for consideration for action at the Annual Conference Session.
 - D. Any actions by boards and agencies failing to meet the Pre-Conference deadline may be included in the on-site packet if received fourteen working days prior to the opening session. All such items will need two-thirds of the Conference voting to be considered for action at the Annual Conference Session. Reports failing to meet the Pre-Conference deadline will be posted on the NCNY Conference website only.
 - E. Resolutions and/or action items too late for the on-site packet shall be submitted to the Floor Manager (800 copies), and will be held overnight before action can be taken in plenary session. Resolutions of less than fifty words, made too late for the on-site packet, may be displayed visually on the screens in the plenary room.
 - F. Reports, recommendations, proposals and resolutions shall be submitted in accordance with the following criteria and following this order of preference: 1) Material may be submitted via e-mail as an attached document. All such documents must be word-processed and in a format that is compatible with either WordPerfect® 8, or Microsoft Word® '97. 2) Material may be submitted on a computer disk. 3) Material submitted in hard copy must be double-spaced and either word processed or typewritten. Whenever possible, hard copy documents should be submitted "photo-ready" so that they are immediately available for further duplication or scanning, with minimal editing required.

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- G. Any agency, local church, or individual presenting a resolution requesting that the Conference's actions be communicated to elected or other government officials or to any public figure shall provide the correspondent with names and addresses of the intended recipients.
 - H. Each District Council shall provide a process for preparing lay and clergy members of the Conference who reside in that District for informed participation in the Conference Session. The District Superintendent shall be responsible for setting dates and coordinating leadership for any pre-conference events scheduled in their districts.
3. Business Procedure: Plenary Session
- A. All debate shall rotate between speakers for and against the particular motion on the floor. There shall be no more than three speeches for and three against, with each speaker being limited to three minutes, after which the Bishop will "test the waters" to determine the conference's readiness to vote. Further debate will be at the Bishop's discretion.
 - B. A count vote shall be taken upon request of at least 25 voting members in plenary session.
4. Equalization Members of the Annual Conference shall be selected annually using the following process:
- A. Equalization Members shall be allocated in equal numbers to each of the various Districts. The Conference Secretary shall determine the total number of Equalization Members needed from the Districts, shall divide that number by the number of Districts, and shall inform each District Superintendent of the number of Equalization Members needed from her/his District. Each District Conference shall elect the appropriate number of Lay Equalization Members from that District. It is strongly recommended that the Lay Equalization members from each District be selected proportionally according to age, gender, and racial/ethnic inclusiveness.
 - B. Two Lay Equalization Members from each District will be youth to be selected by a process determined by the District Council on Youth Ministry. If there is no District Council on Youth Ministry, selection will be made by the District Council on Ministries. [Please note that this provision does not violate the intent of ¶30 of the church's constitution, as amended following the 2000 General Conference. It extends that amendment in providing for two youth per district, rather than one.]
 - C. Laity serving as directors, delegates, or members of General Church Agencies shall be seated as Equalization Members of the Annual Conference, provided that they are not already seated as members in another capacity (Diaconal Minister, Lay Member of a charge, Conference Lay Leader, etc.). This number shall be determined annually and deducted from the total number of Equalization Members, so that the District allocations remain equally distributed, in accordance with section 4.A.
5. The Yearbook Editor shall have sole authority to edit, condense, organize and print the North Central New York Annual Conference Journal and Yearbook.
- A. All yearbook material shall be at the Conference Office, Attn: Vicki Putney, 8422 N. Main St., P.O. Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039 on or before June 30 immediately following the Annual Conference sessions.
 - B. Persons or Boards presenting materials for the Journal shall be responsible for the accuracy of their report.

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- C. Any group or individual presenting a visual report (video, Power Point®, or similar format) shall submit to either the Conference Secretary or the Yearbook Editor a written summary report for inclusion in the Journal or in the minutes of the Annual Conference session, whichever may be appropriate.
- D. The Yearbook Editor shall consult with the Conference Treasurer regarding logistics and costs for producing the Journal.

2. Other Conference Policies

The following Conference Policies were not amended at the 2005 Annual Conference and, therefore, can be found in the 2004 NCNY Conference Journal, beginning on page 209.

- Policy on Parsonage Care and Standards
- Policy Statement on Misconduct of a Sexual Nature
- The Board of Ordained Ministry Guidelines: Organization, Structure, Procedures and Policies

See Page 211 for the Policy on Direct Bill Arrearages which was passed at the 2005 Annual Conference

3. Constitutional Amendments

Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments
The United Methodist Church
Voted General Conference April-May 2004

- I. The proposed amendment specifies that a fair and open process shall be utilized for the election of General Conference delegates.
- II. The proposed amendment adds home missionaries to the classifications over which General Conference has authority to define and fix powers and duties.
- III. The phrase, proposed to be deleted, applied to annual conference in existence prior to 1981. It is now obsolete and may be appropriately discontinued.
- IV. The proposed amendment would guarantee that the person responsible for promoting work of the Mission agency of The United Methodist Church is a member of the Annual Conference. Approximately 30% of Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries are laity. Presently, unless elected by their home church or included under the Conference's equalization rule, this person is not a member of the Annual Conference.
- V. The proposed amendment adds home missionaries under episcopal appointment to the membership of the annual conference.
- VI. The proposed constitutional amendment is needed to support the addition of the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries to the list of lay members of the annual conference in ¶602.4, as passed by General Conference in 2000.
- VII. The proposed amendment provides a definition of clergy members of the annual conference.

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

2004 GENERAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

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

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

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

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

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

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

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

AND

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Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VI

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

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

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

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VII

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

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

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

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

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

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

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two

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years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VIII

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

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

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

4. Resolutions and Actions passed at the 2005 Annual Conference

PROPOSAL RE: CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

Be it resolved that the following list comprise the North Central New York Conference Advance Specials for 2005-2006

Bethany Village - NEW
Bounty's Crossing
Campership Fund
Children's Center for the Common Good
CNY Cooperative Campus Ministries
Cornell U. Protestant Cooperative Ministries
Folts Home, Herkimer
Gateway-Longview Children and Adult Services, Williamsville
Hogansburg Native American UMC
InterReligious Council of Central New York
Native American Mission, Onondaga Nation
NCNY Conference Resource Center
New York State Council of Churches
Newark Hispanic Ministry
Older Native American Out reach/Transportation Program
Partnering Churches
Protestant Community at Ithaca College
Syracuse U. Interdenominational Protestant Campus Ministry
Syracuse Urban Westside Mission/Brown Memorial UMC

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UMCOR Kit Transportation - NEW
Utica Neighborhood Center
Volunteers In Mission (VIM) – Northeast Jurisdiction
Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Scholarship Fund -NEW
Watertown Urban Mission

RESOLUTION RE: DISMANTLING RACISM TRAINING

Whereas the Dismantling Racism Team has begun the work it was charged with by the action steps of the Ministry Plan which included the action step, "The team will begin its work by experiencing its own dismantling racism process. The team will look to other conferences and agencies for successful training programs that have already been used."

Whereas by the action of the 2004 Annual Conference of North Central New York the Task force on Dismantling Racism was formed and charged with the responsibility of "all persons under the appointment system and newly elected congregational leaders will be trained by the Dismantling Racism Team working with the Board of Ordained Ministry."

Be it resolved that all persons in pastoral leadership and all local church lay leaders and lay members (Para. 251.1 and 251.2) shall attend one of the Dismantling Racism Training programs that will be offered in conjunction with the Board of Ordained Ministry at various locations within the North Central New York Conference at a variety of times and dates within a four year period.

Be it further resolved that all new persons entering the appointive system and newly elected lay leaders and lay members shall attend one Dismantling Racism Training.

Be it finally resolved that all employees of the North Central New York Conference shall attend one of the Dismantling Racism Trainings within a four year period.

PROPOSAL RE: REVISION OF ARREARAGE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The following is Arrearage Action Policy and Procedure statement. Please note, the Annual Conference does not wish to force payments, but by means of all churches in the Conference, must collect on bills that are not paid. The Conference also recognizes and wishes to assist churches that have problems in meeting their financial obligations.

Local Church Accountability

If the church does not pay its Direct Billings the DS may meet with the Administrative Board, Trustees, and Church Conference to remind them that if the bill is not paid immediately, or a satisfactory payment plan instituted immediately, the District Superintendent will use the Disciplinary procedures outlined in ¶213 of The Book of Discipline 2004, along with ¶2548.2. These paragraphs focus on "A Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential" - and then outline how a church is discontinued if the potential is not being realized.

Pastoral Accountability

Pastors are reminded by the DS their accountability to see that all financial obligations are paid in full (The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2004, ¶340.3).

When a Church does not make its monthly Direct Billing [Health Insurance Participating Premium, Retiree Health Premium, Health Insurance Cost Share, Personal Health Insurance Premium, Multi-Peril Property Insurance, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) or

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Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)] payments in full, the following process will take place:

- I. 45 days after the bill is due- a letter is sent by the Conference Treasurer to the Church Treasurer, noting non-payment of past due bill.
- II. Approximately 75 days after the original due notice, a second formal letter (with copy of this procedure) will be addressed to the Appointed Pastor from the Conference Finance Chair, with options for response from the local church. Options are:
 - a. Make payment or
 - b. Respond in writing an explanation for non-payment or
 - c. Requests in writing, a consultation visit with a Conference Finance Member.

Written responses in options (b) or (c) above must be made within 14days of receipt of letter to Conference Finance Chair.

Copies of this letter to the Pastor will likewise be sent to:

Administrative Board Chairperson	Finance Chairperson
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Treasurer
PPRC or SPRC Chair	District Superintendent

III. Process to Enforce Direct Billing Payments:

Upon notification (written response or non-payment of bill) the Conference Finance Chair will notify the District Superintendent to be in conversation with the Local Church and the Pastor. This conversation will take place within 60 days of this notification.

IV. The District Superintendent will present names of churches that reach this level of arrearage to the Cabinet for decision on the pathway(s) to follow.

The District Superintendent and/or Cabinet will inform Conference Finance Team of the progress of any step III arrearages.

On-going discussion between the District Superintendent and/or Cabinet and the Finance Team will not end until changes result in payment of arrearages or Disciplinary actions are invoked.

RESOLUTION RE: ELECTION OF CONFERENCE TREASURER

WHEREAS The Book of Discipline, Para. 618, states that "Each annual conference, on nomination of its council on finance and administration, shall at the first session of the conference after the quadrennial session of the General Conference or jurisdictional conference, or at such other times as a vacancy exists, elect a conference treasurer or conference treasurer/director of administrative services."
And

WHEREAS The Conference Finance Team has hired Patricia A. Curtin to fill the vacancy in the Conference Treasurer position effective January 1, 2005, and

WHEREAS The Conference Finance Team supports the continuation of Mrs. Curtin and nominates her for the position of Conference Treasurer,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Patricia A. Curtin be elected Conference Treasurer for the remainder of the 2004-2008 quadrennium.

RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF WOOLWORTH MEMORIAL AS HISTORIC SITE

**Recommending Designation Of Historic Site
Background**

The Woolworth Memorial UMC traces its origin to the Black River Circuit and subsequent Methodist Circuits which encompassed the Town of Champion, Lewis County, NY. Many sturdy pioneers in the Town of Champion embraced Methodism in the years following the War of 1812, perhaps none with more dedication than Wilson Pennock. An Exhorter, Class Leader, and then Local Preacher, Pennock was a founding member of the First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Town of Champion on December 30, 1825.

The following year, Pennock and his neighbors built a plain frame meeting house at a rural crossroads some two miles from the Black River. Pennock began taking the Methodist message of salvation throughout the Town and beyond, augmenting the work of Circuit Itinerants. "Father" Pennock and others who founded the First Society remained active in the Church well past mid-century.

The Civil War and economic changes in this rural area reduced the Church membership considerably but with inspiration from a new Circuit preacher, the Society made the difficult decision to move its place of worship into the hamlet of Great Bend, on the Black River, some two miles distant. The small congregation, with the help of friends, bought a lot, salvaged materials from the old unpainted meeting house and built a church, one with a steeple and organ.

At this new location, the Society prospered. By 1910, thought was given to expanding the church. The following year, Frank W. Woolworth, the now successful retailer who had grown up in the "old" Church, hinted he might make a memorial gift to the Church honoring his parents, John H. and Fanny McBrier Woolworth. Conversations soon became negotiations. By early 1914, understandings had been reached and construction began on May 25, 1914.

Mr. Woolworth would pay the full cost of constructing a suitable church, a parsonage, a carriage barn and sheds on a large lot he owned two blocks from the existing church. The First Society would reincorporate as the Woolworth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church of Great Bend, NY. Tribute to the heritage of the new organization was the fact that the Board of Trustees included two descendants of "Father" Wilson Pennock.

F. W. Woolworth spoke at the dedication of the new church plant on September 15, 1915, announcing his further gift of \$20,000 in bonds in trust, to produce income for maintenance of the church. Woolworth's investment in the new church plant was estimated at \$22,000. Through almost a century of social and economic change, the Woolworth Memorial Church stands as a tribute to the faith and service of the elder Woolworths, and their fellow pioneers who established Methodism in the Black River Valley and their descendants, the keepers of the flame.

WHEREAS, The General Commission on Archives and History has established a program for the registration of United Methodist Historic Sites, including general requirements and an approval process, and

WHEREAS, the Woolworth Memorial UMC has filed an application for registration as a United Methodist Historic Site, to be known as the Woolworth Memorial UMC, together with supporting documentation, with the North Central New York Conference Commission on Archives and History, and

WHEREAS, the Conference Commission on Archives and History has reviewed and evaluated the said Application, and its supporting documentation, with respect to

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completeness, consistency with program guidelines and significance to United Methodist Heritage within the Conference Area, and

WHEREAS, the Conference Commission on Archives and History has concluded that the applicant site merits designation as a United Methodist Historic Site by the General Commission on Archives and History and hereby recommends authorization for such designation by the North Central New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, now therefore, be it

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at its Annual Conference held at Liverpool, New York, June 2005, hereby approves the designation of the Woolworth Memorial United Methodist Church as a Registered United Methodist Historic Site by the General Commission on Archives and History.

MOTION RE: RECEIPT OF BEQUEST

We move that the Annual Conference receive the bequest from the estate of Alec Proskine. Further, we move that the Annual Conference receive the bequest from the Agnes Smith/Margaret Lindwall estate trust.

RESOLUTION RE: DISCONTINUANCE OF WALLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Whereas the Wallace United Methodist Church has faithfully served as a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for generations nurturing its congregation and its community through all of the challenges of life, and

Whereas the Wallace congregation has labored to keep its ministry alive against a declining population and declining economy, and

Whereas the congregation has met in an all church conference and voted to discontinue the Wallace United Methodist Church, and

Whereas the district superintendent recommends discontinuance of the Wallace church and the congregation has made provision for the transfer of members to other United Methodist Churches or churches of their choice and arrangements for the disposition of the artifacts of the church, including its removable assets, and,

Whereas the superintendent recommends that the real property be transferred to the Board of Trustees of the North Central New York Annual Conference pursuant to Paragraph 2548 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2004),

Be it resolved that the Annual Conference support the discontinuance of the Wallace United Methodist Church expressing grateful thanks to those who have served the ministry of Christ through this congregation, and

Be it further resolved that the Wallace United Methodist Church be discontinued effective July 1, 2005, and the real property disposed of pursuant to the provisions of the 2004 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

ACTION ITEMS

1. The minimum compensation for clergy for 2006 will be based on the Denominational Average Salary (DAS), which is \$41,949, an increase of 2.9% over the 2005 amount of \$40,767. This means:
82% of DAS for Full Members of Conference
Serving Full Time \$34,398
Serving $\frac{3}{4}$ time \$25,799
Serving $\frac{1}{2}$ time \$17,199
Serving $\frac{1}{4}$ time \$ 8,599
79% of DAS for Associate Members, Probationary Members and Licensed Local Pastors with a Master of Divinity degree:
Serving Full Time \$33,140
Serving $\frac{3}{4}$ time \$24,855
Serving $\frac{1}{2}$ time \$16,570
Serving $\frac{1}{4}$ time \$ 8,285
74% of DAS for All other Local Pastors
Serving Full Time \$31,042
Serving $\frac{3}{4}$ time \$23,282
Serving $\frac{1}{2}$ time \$15,521
Serving $\frac{1}{4}$ time \$ 7,760
Student Local Pastors and less than $\frac{1}{4}$ time pastor's salaries will be negotiated between the charge, the pastor, and the district superintendent.
2. Every full time pastor is entitled to an increment of \$300 for every year of full time pastoral service within the United Methodist Church up to 15 years. The years will increase to 20, as per the decision on page 147 of the 2000 Conference Yearbook. This amount is added to the base salary.
3. Full time pastors are entitled to housing, pension, health insurance, and utilities (which includes heat, electricity, water, sewage, garbage disposal, basic telephone and basic cable costs in parsonage and church, as well as long distance calls on church business).
4. Full time pastors are entitled to:
Participate in continuing education-
Two weeks annually, plus one month each quadrennium
Participate in spiritual growth programs -
Two weeks annually, plus one month each quadrennium
5. Full time pastors are entitled to:
Four weeks vacation annually for 0-9 years of full time service
Five weeks vacation annually for 10-19 years of full time service
Six weeks vacation annually for 20 plus years of full time service
6. Full time pastors are expected to:
Give a week annually to the conference camping program
7. All pastors are entitled to a Qualified Reimbursement Plan (QRP) for professional expenses incurred while performing pastoral duties. Pastors shall submit a voucher for reimbursement of professional expenses, which may include (but not be limited to) items, such as, travel, church related entertainment, business meals, continuing education, books, subscriptions, dues, internet service provider fees and vestments. After consultation between the pastor and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, the Pastor Parish Relations Committee will recommend an

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appropriate amount to the church conference. A minimum annual QRP budget for a full time pastor should be \$3,500.

8. Pastors and Pastor Parish Relations Committees are requested to utilize the favorable tax advantages of a housing exclusion, formerly called furnishings allowance, (for pastors living in a parsonage) or a housing allowance (for pastors living in his/her own home), as well as a salary reduction agreement for retirement purposes. (*See PIP*)

The General Board of Pension & Health Benefits has standardized the terminology for housing-related salary components as a result of General Conference action. Amounts designated for housing *expenses* are "Housing Exclusion" and amounts used to *provide* housing are "Housing Allowance". A pastor living in a parsonage may have a Housing Exclusion; a pastor living in his/her own home may have a Housing Exclusion and/or Housing Allowance.

9. Pastors are encouraged to participate in the Conference Medical Insurance Program. Pastors should review the Policies of the Conference Board of Pensions related to payment of health insurance premiums in retirement. A proposal will be presented by the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits regarding the health insurance program and costs for 2006.
10. Pastors are strongly encouraged to participate in the Social Security Program. The General Board and the Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits have structured retirement, disability, and health benefit programs around the Social Security system.
11. Using the guidelines noted, "less than full time" pastors (3/4 or 1/2 or 1/4) shall consult with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the district superintendent regarding housing, utilities, pension, health insurance, vacation, and professional expenses.
12. All pastors under appointment must participate in the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP). The charge shall pay the church account portion of the pastor's monthly pension billing which is based on 11% of salary plus housing (base compensation) to a maximum contribution of \$5,763.34 for 2006. The pastor is responsible for the personal portion of the pension billing (PIP). This amount can be "before tax", "after tax" or a combination. Payment to the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits must be made with a church check.
13. Long term disability and death benefits are provided through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) for eligible clergy through the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). Churches will be billed by the NCNY Conference at a rate of 4.4% of base compensation. The maximum was increased by General Conference to \$4,610.68 for 2006.
14. Honoraria for guest preachers during a pastor's vacation should be at least \$75 for one service, \$50 for each additional service, plus mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate. It is anticipated that these honorariums will be increased \$5.00 next year, also.

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RESOLUTION RE: EMMAUS COMMONS CAPITAL FUND DRIVE

WHEREAS, Casowasco Camp, Conference and Retreat Center is a place of respite from the pressures of everyday life, existing for the purpose of introducing individuals to Jesus Christ and providing opportunities for them to grow in their faith, and will soon begin its 60th year of mission and purpose providing Christian hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Camps, Conferences and Retreat Ministries is in ministry addressing the four critical issues of the NCNY Conference Ministry Plan; and

WHEREAS, the central hub of these hallowed grounds is called Emmaus Commons where summer campers, college staff, volunteers, retreat and banquet guests pack and overflow the dining hall; and the 1994 Master Plan acknowledges a need for additional space because the size of the dining hall restricts and limits the current ministry as well as the possible expansion of new ministries; and

WHEREAS, a feasibility study by Generis indicates that a capital fund drive for \$1.7 million would allow adequate dollars to be donated for the expansion and renovation of Emmaus Commons; and

WHEREAS, the Bishop, Cabinet, Trustees, CCRM Board, CCRM Staff and Friends of Casowasco are in support of a Capital Fund Drive to raise funds for the expansion and renovation of Emmaus Commons,

WITH THE UNDERSTANDINGS THAT:

- The Capital Fund Drive will be self supporting and will not require Shared Ministry or CCRM program dollars; and
- Construction for Emmaus Commons will not begin until adequate funds are available and final approval is given by the CCRM Board and the Conference Trustees; and
- All funds pledged and contributed to the Emmaus Commons project will be managed according to the Association of Fundraising Professionals Code of Ethical Principles, Standards of Professional Practice and Donor Bill of Rights,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2005 session of the NCNY Annual Conference hereby gives approval for the CCRM Board to proceed with a Capital Fund Drive for expansion and renovation of Emmaus Commons at Casowasco.

RESOLUTION RE: RENEWAL/SABBATICAL LEAVE

WHEREAS, spiritual, intellectual, professional, and personal renewal are of consequence to the good of clergy men and women and, as a result, also are of consequence to the laity with whom they work, and whereas renewal leaves, including sabbatical leaves, are a prime means of delivering such renewal opportunities,

WHEREAS, the benefits of such renewal not only accrue to the parishes being served by clergy who return from renewal/sabbatical leaves, but also accrue to the Annual Conference and the other charges in the Annual Conference whom these clergy will serve in the future throughout the Conference, and

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WHEREAS, at the present time there exists the need for increased attention, including, but not only, financial attention, to be given by the Annual Conference to renewal/sabbatical leaves, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference's Board of Ordained Ministries design and/or reconsider policies that address aspects of renewal/sabbatical leaves and that specifically include shared costs between the Annual Conference and the appropriate local charges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Ordained Ministries make its report and offer its recommendations at the 2006 session of the Annual Conference.

RESOLUTION RE: VACATION FOR FULL TIME CLERGY

WHEREAS, the North Central New York Conference has made a concerted effort to raise the minimum salary for the clergy of this Annual Conference and, due to this effort, we are no longer one of the lowest entry level salaries for all Annual Conferences,

WHEREAS, the North Central New York Conference has not been able to sustain a system of raises that now leaves us as no longer on the lower end of minimum salaries but at the lower end of overall salaries, and

WHEREAS, there are different ways of showing appreciation and gratitude for service to God and the Church; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central New York Conference adopt a new system of vacations for all full time clergy persons based on years of service. This would allow four weeks vacation for 0-9 years of full time service, five weeks vacation for 10-19 years of full time service and six weeks vacation for 20 plus years of full time service.

RESOLUTION RE: Abandoned and Discontinued Church Property Assets

Be it resolved that all financial assets realized by sale of abandoned or discontinued church property:

- 1) Be used to pay up any unpaid balances of that local church's direct billing (if any).
- 2) Any remaining assets are to be invested by the Trustees of the North Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- 2) That, consistent with The United Methodist Book of Discipline, including para. 2548.7, principal and/or interest be made available through the Congregational Development Ministry Area for:
 - A) Any future new church starts
 - B) Any missional priorities approved by the team for funding.
 - C) Submitted to and approved by either the Annual Conference or the Conference Council
 - D) Be accompanied by a request for, and support of the District Superintendent, and the resident Bishop.

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RESOLUTION RE: TASKFORCE ON CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES AND INTER-CONFERENCE COOPERATION

Where as the members of the 2004 Annual Conference voted to continue talks "between the two conferences [Western and North Central New York], and that such discussions be expanded to include Troy and Wyoming Annual Conferences," (see North Central New York Annual Conference Journal 2004, pp. 153-154);

Be it resolved that a Taskforce on Conference Boundaries and Inter-Conference Cooperation be empowered to conduct and expand this conversation. Members of this taskforce, including its leadership, shall be nominated by the Bishop and approved by the annual conference at its 2005 session. They will serve for the remainder of the present quadrennium and will be eligible for re-nomination and re-approval. Membership shall include both clergy and laity and shall be representative of NCNY's ethnic, generational and geographic diversity. The total membership of the Taskforce shall not exceed 25 persons;

Be it further resolved that the Taskforce shall make a report to the 2006 and subsequent sessions of NCNY Annual Conference on the fruit of its conversations with the other annual conferences.

Be it still further resolved that the Taskforce shall consist of the following persons nominated by the Bishop: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding (c, chairperson) Aaron Bouwens (c), Alan Kinney (c), Beth Quick (c), Bob Stoppert (c), Deborah O'Connor-Slater (c), Ed Enstine (l, UMM); Harold Garman (c), Jeffery Losey (c), Joe Colvin (l);, Kathy Barden (c), Mike Huber (l, Conf Staff), Pat Jelinek (c), Richard Deitzler (l), Ronald Bretsch (l), Robert Sherburne (c), Shirley Verity (l, UMW), Steve Deckard (c, Conf. Staff), Wayne Butler (c), Wendy Rhodhamel (c), and H. Nelson Stafford (c, BOOM); and shall include additional persons to balance lay/clergy and include local pastors.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS:

1. The Board recommends to the Annual Conference that the past service annuity rate for pre-1982 service be set at \$385 for the year 2006. This is an increase of 4% and brings us to .81% of the Conference Average Compensation. The required level is .80% of CAC.
2. Effective July 1, 2005, the Board recommends that the following persons be continued on Incapacity Leave: Kathryn Austin, Patricia Carpenter, Paula Hart, Robert Lewis, Jessie Marafioti, and Charles Wickert; and that Thomas H. Jones be granted incapacity leave.
3. The Board recommends that the Conference Treasurer be authorized to draw on the reserve funds of the Board of Pensions, only upon approval by the Board, for the amounts budgeted for pensions and health benefits, if and when it becomes necessary to meet pensions and health benefit obligations during the 2006 fiscal year.
4. The Board recommends the approval of the Rental/Housing Allowance Resolution presented below.

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HOUSING/RENTAL ALLOWANCE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and, WHEREAS the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and,

WHEREAS pensions paid to retired ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service, and disability benefits are considered payments in lieu of compensation for active service; and,

WHEREAS the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the North Central New York Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Conference; and,

WHEREAS the disabled minister has the same legal relationship to an Annual Conference as does the retired minister and, thus, this Annual Conference is also the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for a disabled ordained or licensed minister who is a member of this Conference;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received by a retired minister, or 100% of the disability/incapacity benefit payments received by a disabled minister, during the year of 2006, be and is hereby designated as a housing/rental allowance respectively for each retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the North Central New York Annual Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability;
2. The pension or disability/incapacity payment to which this housing/rental allowance applies shall be the pension or disability payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference, General Agency, or institution of The United Methodist Church or any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension or benefit funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired minister's pension or disabled minister's benefits.

NOTE: The housing/rental allowance which may be excluded from a minister's gross income is limited to the lesser of: 1) the amount of the housing/rental allowance designated by the minister's employer or other appropriate body, 2) the amount actually expended by the minister to provide his or her housing, or, 3) the legally determined fair rental value of the parsonage or other housing provided. As specified in Rev. Rule 71-180, 1971 C.B. 92, "the only amount that will qualify for exclusion under section 107 (2) of the Code as a 'rental allowance' is an amount equal to the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities".

5. The Conference Board recommends acceptance of the 2005 Funding Plan for Supplement One of the Ministerial Pension Plan as presented below, and which has received a favorable opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

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**NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK CONFERENCE
PENSION FUNDING PLAN - 2005**

The 2005 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the North Central New York Conference is \$370 or 0.81% of Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The Conference Board has agreed that it will expect to maintain the PSR at .80% per Disciplinary requirements or higher in future years.

Over the past several years the PSR dollar increase has been at about 4% and our philosophy is to maintain a 4% increase in that amount according to cost of living assumptions. This is evaluated annually by the Conference Board of Pensions in accordance with the available funding information.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has determined that the portion of the pre-82 plan liability attributable to North Central New York Conference is \$23,912,213 with a 4% PSR increase assumption, based on a 2005 PSR of \$370. Our plan funding with the General Board as of January 1, 2003 is \$23,772,414.

The difference between the funded status and the total plan liability is -\$139,859. This represents an "under funded" status for 2005. However, based on the General Board's valuation, there will be no required contributions to the plan for 2005; and the Conference's non-fund assets are substantially more than the under funded amount. (See below and summary)

Our conference continues to fund plan benefits through several funding sources. Both the interest and principal of non-plan funds are available for retirement funding needs. Below is a description of assets available to pay the present value of future contributions:

1. The Conference maintains a deposit account with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits that has a value of \$3,469,132 as of January 1, 2005.
2. As of December 1, 2004, the Conference Board of Trustees has \$3,159,534 of pension assets with John G. Ullman and Associates of which \$94,413 is accounts receivables. Projected earnings rate is 4%, however the earnings have been distributed to the Conference Board of Pensions operating fund for funding of retiree health care and retiree moving expenses. Supplemental funding of retiree health care from this account is expected to decrease by approximately \$10,000 per year for the next seven years, which will then allow for principle growth.
3. The United Methodist Frontier Foundation is currently holding \$250,314 in pension assets within its Equity fund. Projected earnings are 4% and are reinvested with the Foundation. The Foundation is holding \$892,377 in pension assets within its Income fund with projected earnings of 4% annually distributed to the Conference Board of Pensions operating account.
4. The North Central New York Conference does not apportion the local churches for pre-82 pension funding and does not plan to do so.

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The funding plan is summarized below:

Supplement One Liability Assuming PSR Increase of 4.0%	\$(23,912,273)
Plan Funding	<u>23,772,414</u>
Funded Status	\$(139,859)

Plan Assets:

• Deposit Account	\$ 3,469,132
• Trustee Investment Account	3,159,534
• Foundation Investment Accounts	<u>1,142,690</u>
• Total Additional Plan Assets	\$ 7,771,356

6. The Conference Board recommends adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RE: ADOPTION OF HEALTHFLEX

WHEREAS, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits has regularly monitored the health insurance plan(s) provided to clergy members and lay employees of the Conference, and

WHEREAS, the Board has re-affirmed each year that the use of Health Maintenance Organizations to provide benefits and to regulate the cost of the health care offered has been the most viable option available locally, and

WHEREAS, the use of HMOs across the geographic area of the Conference requires the enrollment of participants in four different groups with four different rating structures that cannot provide premium rates prior to the local church budget meetings, and

WHEREAS, there is very little in the way of wellness benefits offered in the HMOs available in Upstate New York, yet the Conference Board is committed to a body/mind/spirit approach to managing health and wellness among Conference participants, and

WHEREAS HealthFlex has been constructed to answer the above concerns in the following ways:

- A. HealthFlex uses in-network providers with contracts to provide care at a negotiated price, yet it does not require participants to utilize their Primary Care Physician for referrals to specialists;
- B. HealthFlex has designed a program that utilizes a nation-wide network of providers so that there is no need to change HMOs when moving, in-network providers are available when traveling or for dependents attending school, and benefits as well as rates are uniform across the Conference geographic region;
- C. HealthFlex will provide rates prior to the local church budgeting process, and increases in rates are moderated by the strength of numbers of participants throughout the country and the effects of pooling high claims;
- D. HealthFlex embraces a Health As Wholeness In Mission approach, providing traditional health care, a vision program, 24-hour availability to nursing consultations, Health Risk Assessments, Pastoral counselors, the WebMD Personal Health Manager on-line service, a tax-advantaged flexible spending account, and a LifeSolutions

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employee assistance program which provides expert assessment and counseling, financial services, legal assistance and chronic condition support among other things;

- E. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits provides 1.) a staff dedicated to HealthFlex, providing support and advocacy services to all participants, 2) educational staff who conduct seminars, 3) administrative and marketing staff to provide plan oversight, communication materials, and on-line assistance, and 4) financial oversight of the plan including application for federal subsidy related to the Medicare Part D reimbursement plan, annual rate negotiations, and conducting the Retiree Health Liability Valuation which is required by General Conference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Central New York Conference adopt HealthFlex as its provider of health care services effective January 1, 2006.

PROPOSED REVISION OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Theological Task according to ¶104 section 4 of our Discipline calls for the Church to encourage serious reflection, and as United Methodists we are called to identify the needs both of individuals and society. We are also instructed to make use of Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason.

I, for one United Methodist retired Clergy, am concerned, dismayed, and embarrassed by our hypocritical stance in society. Therefore I present the following.

WHEREAS any review of our rule book, known as "The Discipline", clearly indicates that although the contents were compiled with good intended directives and rules, which seemed advisable at the time of writing, but are not realistic in the year of 2005,

AND WHEREAS our present day changes have made much of the contents obsolete and either ignored or not complied with,

AND WHEREAS this makes us, as United Methodists, hypocrites when we either lie in order to comply with the requirements, or fail to live up to what our Discipline requires.

Examples: ¶336 #18, and page ¶330 #18, poses a question, "Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?" ¶163 IV G on gambling and lotteries. ¶103 section 3, The General Rules of the Methodist Church on drunkenness, selling spirituous liquors or drinking them.

We know that the fact is that at least some of these directives are not complied with by some of our present Members.

THEREFORE I PROPOSE THAT a Revision of our beloved Discipline be made, dividing those parts of our Discipline which are not adhered to, perhaps obsolete, into what I would suggest might be called, "The Historical Methodist Discipline," and that portion of our Discipline which we presently faithfully comply with the present day activity, be entitled "Present Day Discipline of The United Methodist Church."

In order for this to happen, the protective statement concerning change of The Discipline also may require change. ¶507, #2: "If the Discipline is affected each petition must address only one paragraph of the Discipline, except that two or more paragraphs in the Discipline are so closely related that a change in one affects the others, the petition may call for the amendment of those paragraphs also to make them consistent with one another."

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I, Harold A. Beaudry, a retired Associate Member of The North Central New York Conference make this a Motion in hope that due consideration may be given it by our Conference.

THE FOLLOWING WAS REFERRED TO BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY

RESOLUTION RE: SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

WHEREAS, Syracuse University originally was deemed a Methodist institution, it has long since overcome that distinction and is completely independent from our denomination with the exception of our resident Bishop serving on the Board of Trustees,

WHEREAS the North Central New York Conference has supported a United Methodist Chaplain at Syracuse for many years, wishing to maintain its connection with Methodism. A United Methodist has assumed the position of Dean of Hendricks Chapel and the individual currently in the Protestant Chaplain's position, the position our funds support, is a United Church of Christ pastor, and

WHEREAS, while our financial support is important to Syracuse University, it is being given at the expense and to the detriment of all the other higher education institutions within our conference. With our limited funding, it is clear that we cannot support in full a chaplain at Syracuse University and provide financial support to our other higher education institutions, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that funding for the chaplain's position at Syracuse University be reduced by 25% each year beginning in 2006 so that the current funding would be reduced to 75% in 2006, 50% in 2007, 25% in 2008 and there would be no funding specifically for salary support in 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the money not spent at Syracuse University be provided as grant money to United Methodist churches within our conference involved in campus ministry. These funds would be distributed by the Board of Higher Education of our conference and that other denominational judicatories be requested to provide resources to support this vital ministry to Syracuse University.