

IX. PETITIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOTES:

The petitions to the 2009 session are printed here in the form in which they were approved or referred by the conference, which is not in every case identical to the form in which they were originally submitted. In the interest of clarity and economy, the texts of petitions which were not adopted or referred by the conference are not printed.

Whenever the text of a petition is printed elsewhere in the journal, as in the case of proposals from the agencies of the conference, the reader will be referred to the appropriate section.

PETITION 1 Subject: **Trustees of Camp Tekoa**

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Camp Tekoa, Inc.

Text: See the proposal in the Camping and Retreat Ministries Committee Report in section VIII.B.1a.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 2 Subject: **Advance Specials for 2009-2010**

Submitted by: Mike Collins on behalf of the Commission on Outreach Ministries

Text: See the proposal in the Commission on Outreach Ministries Report in section VIII.B.2b.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 3 Subject: **Golden Cross**

Submitted by: A. Gayle Ford, Director

Text: See the proposal in the Commission on Outreach Ministries Report in section VIII.B.2b.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 4 Subject: **Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation**

Submitted by: Roy J. Helm, Jr., President and Rev. Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Text: See the nomination of directors of the Wesley Community Development Corporation in the report of the Commission on Outreach Ministries in section VIII.B.2b.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 5 Subject: **Boards of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.**

Submitted by: Joseph P. Snyder, President and CEO and Rev. William T. Jeffries, Chairperson on behalf of the boards.

Text: See the nomination of directors of the Aldersgate Retirement Community in their report in section VIII.F.1.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 6 Subject: **Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.**

Submitted by: W. David Piner, President and CEO and Michael L. Robinson, Chairperson, Board of Directors on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Text: See the nomination of directors of the Arbor Acres Retirement Community in their report in section VIII.F.2.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 7 Subject: **Trustees of the Children's Home**

Submitted by: George M. Bryan, Jr., President and CEO on behalf of the Trustees.

Text: See the nomination of trustees of the Children's Home in their report in section VIII.F.3.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 8 Subject: **Board of Directors of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.**

Submitted by: Kenneth M. Partin, CEO on behalf of the Board of Directors

Text: See the nomination of directors of Givens Estates Retirement Community in their report in section VIII.F.4.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 9 Subject: **Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc.**

Submitted by: Board of Trustees, UMAR-WNC, Inc.

Text: See the nomination of trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc. in their report in section VIII.F.5.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 10 Subject: **Board of Directors of Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services**

Submitted by: Jim Westmoreland, Chairperson and John V. Arey, Jr., Clinical Services Director on behalf of the Board of Directors

Text: See the nomination of the board of MCCS in their report in section VIII.F.7.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 11Subject: **WNCC UM Deaf Ministry****Submitted by:** Marty Folsom, President and Beverly Maulden, Director on behalf of the WNCC UM Deaf Ministry**Text:** See the proposal in the Western NC Conference United Methodist Deaf Ministry report in section VIII.F.9.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 12**Subject: **Pension Programs and Policies****Submitted by:** Mark B. Edwards, President on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits**Text:** See the proposals of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits in their report in section VIII.L.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 13**Subject: **Health Benefits Program and Policies****Submitted by:** Edwards, President on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Health Benefits Committee**Text:** See the proposals of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Health Benefits Committee in their report in section VIII.L.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 14**Subject: **Annual Conference Meeting****Submitted by:** Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, Chairperson and Kimberly T. Ingram, Secretary on behalf of the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting**Text:** See the proposals in the report of the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting in section VIII.N.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 15**Subject: **Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines****Submitted by:** Angela Rogers Marlowe, Chairperson, Paulette Norman, Vice-Chairperson, and Cynthia L. Arnold, Secretary on behalf of the Commission on Equitable Compensation**Text:** See the proposals in the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation found in section VIII.V.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 16**Subject: **Trustee of Cole Foundation****Submitted by:** James C. Windham, Jr., Chairperson on behalf of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation**Text:** See the nomination of the trustee found in the report of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation in section VIII.CC.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 17**Subject: **Conference Rule Changes to Implement Reorganization of Structure****Submitted by:** Robert Shepherd, Chairperson and reorganization task force members**Text:** See the rule changes in the report of the Reorganization Task Force Report found in Section VIII. Z. and also reflected in the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure printed in section VII.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 18**Subject: **Campus Ministry Boards****Submitted by:** Council on Campus Ministries and each individual board.**Text:** See the nominations for each campus ministry board found in the report of the Council on Campus Ministry in section VIII.E.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 19**Subject: **Brevard College Trustees****Submitted by:** Board of Trustees, Brevard College**Text:** See the nominations in the report of the Council on Higher Education found in section VIII.D.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 20**Subject: **High Point University Trustees****Submitted by:** Board of Trustees, High Point University**Text:** See the nominations in the report of the Council on Higher Education found in section VIII.D.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 21**Subject: **Duke University Trustees****Submitted by:** Richard V. Riddell, Vice President and University Secretary, Duke University**Text:** The following are proposed for election with the number of years to serve in parenthesis: Peter J. Kahn (6 years), Xing Zong (1 year), and Ryan Todd (2 years)**Conference Action:** Adopted petition**PETITION 22**Subject: **Reorganization Task Force Resolution of Implementation****Submitted by:** The Reorganization Task Force**Text:** See the proposal in the report of the Reorganization Task Force Report found in Section VIII. Z.**Conference Action:** Adopted petition

Bishops L. Bevel Jones, III, and Larry M. Goodpaster take a moment to share a few words during the 2009 Western NC Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska.

Bishop Jones served the WNCC from 1984 until his retirement in 1996. He is Bishop in Residence at Emory University.



PETITION 23 Subject: **Connectional Table Nominations**

Submitted by: The Conference Committee on Nominations

Text: The approved nominations are printed in the Conference Organization, section II.A.1.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 24 Subject: **North Carolina Lottery**

Submitted by: Michael Helms, East Flat Rock UMC, Asheville District

Text: Whereas, Paragraph 164, section B, of the *Book of Discipline* states... "The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust;" and Whereas, Paragraph 163, section G, of the *Book of Discipline* states..."Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interest of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, destructive of good government and good stewardship...the Church's prophetic call is to promote standards of justice and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial gambling-including public lotteries, casino's, raffles, internet gambling, gambling with an emerging wireless technology, and other games of chance- as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government;" and

Whereas, The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church voted to send a statement to the Legislature of the State of North Carolina in its overwhelming opposition to gambling in general and to the establishment of a state lottery in the year 2005; and

Whereas, The employment of a state lottery for the express purpose of funding the education of our children sends the message to our children and youth that such practices of gambling are not only acceptable but preferable as a means of funding their education; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we the people of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church petition the Legislature of the State of North Carolina to introduce and pass legislation repealing the North Carolina State Lottery Act of 2005, specifically HB 1023 as passed on 08-30-2005. We encourage provisions be made to fully fund the dismantling of the gaming system, using the remaining funds in the system and whatever General Funds are necessary.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 25 Subject: **Health Care Resolution**

Submitted by: Lynn Sloan Barnes, First UMC, Elkin

The Rev. Jay W. Bissett, Mitchell-Yancey Charge

Betty Jo Hardy, Milford Hills UMC, Salisbury

Paige Krotchko, Milford Hills UMC, Salisbury

Jayne Smith, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Pat Richardson, Asbury Memorial UMC, Asheville

Gloria Hoepfner, Bakersville UMC, Bakersville

Joyce Anderegg, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Nola Smee, St. Paul's UMC, Asheville

Conference Action: Petition was defeated.

Esther Megill, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Nancy Garrison, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Bess Redmond, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Lucy Gist, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Ruth Clark, St. Paul's UMC, Asheville

Marjorie Ruegger, Trinity UMC, Asheville

Rev. Christy Sharp, Asheville District

Elaine Gasser, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

Cameron Kempson, Biltmore UMC, Asheville

PETITION 26Subject: **The Branch: Young Clergy on the Vine**

Submitted by: Rev. Mike A. Carr, Hawthorne Lane UMC, Charlotte District; Rev. Mark D. Conforti, Prospect-Mt. Pleasant UMC, Northeast District; Rev. Sarah Watkins Davis, Gastonia First UMC, Gastonia District; Rev. Christopher D. Henson, Morris Chapel UMC, Winston-Salem District; Rev. Elise B. Kennedy, Fairgrove UMC, Lexington District; Rev. Heather S. Kilbourne, Asbury-Longtown UMC, North Wilkesboro District; Rev. Lauren P. Richardson, Central Terrace, Winston-Salem District; Rev. Matthew S. Smith, Cashiers UMC, Waynesville District; Rev. Toni Ruth Smith, Hopewell UMC, Lexington District; Rev. A.J. Thomas, Boone UMC, North Wilkesboro District; Rev. Erin G. Yow, Kannapolis: Trinity UMC, Salisbury District.

Text: *I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.* -John 15:5 (NRSV)

Understanding the Wesleyan tradition of Christian Conferencing to be a means of grace, "The Branch" is an intentional and covenantal community of the WNCC of the UMC for young clergy who want to return to our heritage of being a movement through worship, intercession, spiritual disciplines, vulnerability, accountability, mutual support, resourcing, and networking. As young clergy, our goal is to bear fruit nurtured by a community that maintains our connection to the vine while strengthening and contributing to the mission of the WNCC. We strive to serve together in a collegial and holy way, not competitively. We invite our colleagues to get grafted!

Whereas, The low number of young clergy (35 and under) causes great concern for vital ongoing leadership: ¹ young clergy account for 7.3 % of the WNCC clergy; only 11 young clergy are approved for full connection at the 2009 session of the WNCC; the total number of clergy under the age of 35 is 92 (excluding the 11 coming for full connection in 2009); and

Whereas, We seek to:

- Enhance the life of the entire WNCC
- Form Covenant Peer Groups of Young Clergy
- Involve "experienced" clergy as mentors
- Support clergy partners and children
- Support incoming Probationary (Provisional) ministers
- Support one another through times of struggle; and

Whereas, Because we want to nurture our community, we have a point person within each district charged with contacting young clergy within her/his district, including welcoming incoming new young clergy to the WNCC and/or district. There are also three annual events: Fall Day Apart, Spring Retreat, and an Annual Conference social gathering; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Western North Carolina Conference does hereby encourage the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Bishop and Cabinet to give focus toward nurturing of young clergy within our Annual Conference. All churches and church-related institutions with a clergyperson age 35 and under shall encourage and support participation in the three annual events to be sponsored by The Branch, including sufficient time away from the appointment not to be counted as vacation.

Resolved, That the young clergy of the WNCC shall seek counsel and community from their colleagues of all ages in order to strengthen their connection to the very Vine of Christ.

Resolved, That the young clergy of the WNCC shall intentionally contact and offer themselves as friends to incoming young Probationary (Provisional) clergy to provide support and encouragement, and to listen to the needs of the newest and youngest of our clergy.

¹Statistics Ct.esy of the office of the Conference Secretary-Statistician.

- 4 Deacons in Full Connection
- 40 Elders in Full Connection
- 10 Full-time Local Pastors
- 2 Part-time Local Pastors
- 3 Probationary (Provisional) Members in Deacon track
- 33 Probationary (Provisional) Members in Elder track
- Only 11 young clergy coming into full connection at the 2009 session of the WNCC



Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 27 Subject: **Funding Fair Share Askings**

Submitted by: Rev. Jonathan Coppedge-Henley and Rev. Robb Webb, co-chairpersons, on behalf of the Western North Carolina Conference Council on Campus Ministry

Text: Whereas, the time is ripe to embrace people who are hungry for God, for spiritual nourishment, and for a Church that is engaging them; and as the Western NC Conference is uniquely positioned to develop clergy and lay leaders for the future of the United Methodist Church and the church universal; and

Whereas, not only spiritual, but also material, support is required for maintaining the existence and strength of United Methodist ministry on the campuses of colleges and universities, at camps, in prisons, in urban and rural areas, and throughout many places beyond the walls of the church; and Whereas, continuously declining funding levels for these vital ministries in recent years is currently threatening the very survival of many of these programs; and

Whereas, many of these ministries lack access to development officers or professional fundraising staff—either within individual ministries or at the Broader conference level; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connectional Table shall re-evaluate the Fair Share Askings' funding paradigm and prioritize the funding initiatives of the Fair Share Askings according to the vision and mission of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and the funding capabilities of the missional entities represented as Fair Share Askings.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 28 Subject: **Christian Education Sunday**

Submitted by: Rev. Gloria G. Hughes, WNCC Coordinator of Christian Education & Nurture

Text: Whereas, Paragraph 265.1 of *The Book of Discipline* (2008) states

Christian Education Sunday shall be observed on a date determined by the annual conference. It calls the Church as the people of God to be open to growth and learning as disciples of Jesus Christ. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received for Christian education within the annual conference. The observance of Christian Education Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Discipleship; and

Whereas, *The Book of Discipline* gives authority to the annual conference to set Christian Education Sunday on the date best for the annual conference; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church designate the third Sunday in the month of September, or another Sunday where needed, as Christian Education Sunday each calendar year.

Conference Action: Adopted petition

PETITION 29 Subject: **Clergy Profiles for General and Jurisdictional Conference Elections**

Submitted by: Rev. J. Burton Williams, Macedonia UMC, Lexington District

Conference Action: Bishop Goodpaster ruled petition #29 out of order because, as it is written, it is in violation of the Constitution of the Church and the *Book of Discipline* in the following ways: Paragraphs 13 and 35 require the process for electing clergy be fair and open to all members; Paragraphs 502 and 139 stress the importance of inclusiveness of all elections.

PETITION 30 Subject: **Rural Life Sunday**

Submitted by: Rev. Randy L. Wall, Chairperson, United Methodist Rural Fellowship

Rev. David Christy, Chairperson, Town and Country Committee

Text: Whereas, Paragraph 265.3 of *The Book of Discipline* (2008) states:

Rural Life Sunday shall be observed on a date to be determined by the annual conference. Rural Life Sunday shall call the Church to celebrate the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church, to recognize the ongoing crisis occurring in rural areas of the nation and world today, and to affirm the interdependence of rural and urban communities. The observance of Rural Life Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries; and

Whereas, The rural crisis had led many rural residents of our country to suffer the loss of self-esteem and their way of life due to the closure of farms, businesses, schools, and health care facilities; and

Whereas, the state of North Carolina continues to suffer the loss of rural and open land; and

Whereas, the good citizens of North Carolina in rural and urban areas face growing environmental concerns about the quality of our land, water, and air due to what is commonly called "urban sprawl"; and

Whereas, Rural Life Sunday has traditionally promoted themes related to health and wholeness, conservation, and stewardship of our natural resources; and

Whereas, these themes are of increasing importance; and

Whereas, *The Book of Discipline* gives authority to the annual conference to set Rural Life Sunday on the date best for the Annual Conference; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church designate the sixth Sunday after Easter, or another Sunday where needed, as Rural Life Sunday in 2010; urge the clergy and laity of its member congregations to observe this day; and encourage its member congregations to utilize resources for this observance from such sources as the Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Rural Fellowship, the Rural Chaplains Association, and county Soil and Water Conservation offices located across the region.

Conference Action: Adopted petition