

Petition Additions and Corrections

Petitions Referred by Committee on Reference:

Pet.# - From - To

30281 - GJ – IC
 30282 - GJ – IC
 30283 - GJ – IC
 30522 - CS - GM
 30529 - CS – GM
 30532 - CS – GM
 31046 - CO – HE
 31302 - FA – CS
 31849 - GJ – CO

The following petitions have corrected text:

31506-CO-30-C

“Clarify Boundaries for Deaconess Appointments”

Amend first sentence of 30, Article I:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy . . . the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses under episcopal appointment ~~within the bounds of the annual conference~~, the conference president of . . .

31383-CM-NonDis-O

“Support for Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters”

Regarding Book of Resolution “Offering of Letters”

Support for Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters

In developing countries, 1.3 billion people (equaling the entire population of China) live in absolute poverty, with individual purchasing power equivalent to less than one U.S. dollar a day and 70 percent of childhood deaths are associated with malnutrition and preventable diseases. Approximately 35,000 children world wide die each day from hunger related causes, and another 841 million other people will suffer from malnutrition (Bread for the World Institute)

Helping hungry people is to Christian faith as breathing out is to breathing in, and the God of the Bible requires justice on the part of nations as well as in individuals. God didn’t send Moses to the courts of Pharaoh to take up a collection of canned goods and blankets. God sent Moses with a political message; to let the oppressed people of Israel go free.

The law that the Lord gave to Israel protected poor people. Courts were to treat poor people fairly, and farmers were to leave some grain unharvested for poor families. The prophets held kings and other leaders of the national accountable for justice toward poor and vulnerable people: “Woe to those who decree unjust laws, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice, and to rob the poor of my people of their right. . .” [Isaiah 10:1-2].

The prophets promised a messiah who would establish justice and the knowledge of God, and Jesus later announced himself as the fulfillment of those promises: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives. . . to set at liberty those who are oppressed. . .” [Luke 4:18-21] Jesus fed hungry people, befriended outcasts and called for radical sharing. He embodied forgiveness and mercy. Those of us who have been embraced by this “good news” are drawn to be concerned about people in need and we are compelled to work to make our society’s laws fair and helpful toward poor and hungry people.

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that, “In order to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world. In creating technology, when accompanied by exploitative economic practices, impoverishes many persons and makes poverty self-perpetuating.” (§ 68B).

Our General Conference Resolution entitled: Call for a Rebirth of Compassion, reinforces this sentiment when it states that “we call all upon United Methodists throughout the land not only to feed the hungry and house the homeless, but also to work for policies that will end hunger and homelessness.”

Bread for the World (BFW) established in 1974, is a non-profit, non-partisan Christian citizen’s movement which performs a unique and critical role within the faith community by working to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth by using their network of thousands of local churches across America to lobby elected officials on behalf of people who don’t have enough to eat; and

BFW’s main campaign is an annual nationwide “Offering of Letters,” which not only provides church members with the opportunity to write members of Congress concerning hunger related issues, but also enables congregations to incorporate into their worship experience, their passionate concerns for those that are starving and suffering from malnutrition; and

The United Methodist Church, along with more than 45 denominations and church agencies, generously supports BFW, and in fact, the United Methodist Church has a 25 year history of collaboration with BFW’s fight against the root causes of both global and domestic hunger. BFW has said that, “[It] owes much to Methodism’s historic commitment to social justice and active concern for the poor and down trodden. John Wesley’s conviction that ‘the world is my parish’ is at the heart of BFW’s work.”

Therefore, be it resolved that the United Methodist Church encourage its members to support Bread for the World, and urge all local churches to celebrate an annual “Offering of Letters,” for as long as God’s children go hungry.

Enacted by the East Ohio Annual Conference, Gary R. Henderson-Conference Secretary

The following petitions are new:

31996-HE-417-D

“Eliminate References to Mandatory Retirement”

Remove references to mandatory retirement in the following paragraphs:

417

... In the selection of superintendents, bishops shall give due consideration to the inclusive nature of The United Methodist Church with respect to sex, race, national origin, physical challenge, and age, ~~except for the provisions of mandatory retirement.~~

430.1

... Open itinerancy means appointments are made without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, color, marital status, or age, ~~except for the provisions of mandatory retirement.~~

1506.3

C) By an ordained minister from another Christian denomination who has not ~~attained the age of mandatory retirement for a conference clergy member, who has not retired...~~

31997-FA-821-D

“Financing Continuing Education Events”

Add the following to the end of the first paragraph of 821

When these funds are used to finance Continuing Education events sponsored by the Board of Ordained Ministry of an annual conference, such events may be open to laity for their attendance and participation at the option of the Board of Ordained Ministry of each annual conference.

31998-FA-1508.6-D

“Replacement of Annuity Schedule Provider”

Effective January 1, 2001, amend paragraph 1508.6 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church to read:

An annual conference agency handling such funds shall not offer higher rates of annuity than those listed in the annuity schedule approved by **the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits General Council on Finance and Administration.**

The following petitions have been voided by the Committee on Reference because of duplications:

31133, 31137, 31920, 31921, 31922

The following petitions have been voided by the Judicial Council ruling from May 3, 2000 (found on page 1796 of the DCA)

30319, 30323, 30327, 30329, 30332, 30879, 30880, 30990