



**THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

2021

**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS**

One Hundred Seventy Eighth Session

Held

Remotely

June 5-6, 2021

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EDITOR'S NOTES

1. *The Book of Resolutions* (BOR) contains a complete listing of all Resolutions of the Iowa Annual Conference. In 2011, some resolutions were re-numbered and moved to different sections to more closely align with the General Conference Book of Resolutions. All resolutions in the BOR will be in effect until they are repealed. *The Book of Resolutions* is an official record of resolutions approved by the Iowa Annual Conference.
2. Each Resolution is assigned a 9000 number. Gaps in the numerical sequence occur when resolutions have been deleted. All new resolutions are assigned a new number. The first date following the resolution title indicates the year the resolution was first approved by the Iowa Annual Conference. The second date, when listed, indicates the year the resolution was amended to its current form. All resolutions have been edited to have the same format and punctuation, without changing the content or meaning of the resolution.
3. There are likely to be a few errors in the 2021 *BOR*. Please report all corrections or suggestions for improvement to:

Patty King
 Editor, IAC Book of Resolutions
 206 N. Franklin
 Ames, IA 50014-3423
piking@netins.net

4. For the sake of conservation of space *IACJ* means *Iowa Annual Conference Journal* and *BOR* means *Book of Resolutions*.
5. All who read *The Book of Resolutions* should understand that the Iowa Annual Conference is a legal ecclesiastical institution of The United Methodist Church, as prescribed in *The Book of Discipline*. There may be some official members of the Annual Conference who have not voted with the majority. Therefore, the vote and action of the Iowa Annual Conference may not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of every member and constituent of United Methodist congregations in Iowa.
6. The *BOR* is a joint effort of the Conference Resolutions Committee, the Board of Church and Society and the Journal sub-committee of the Annual Conference Session Committee.
7. See Rules of Order 2265.00 in the 2017 *IACJ* for the Conference rules governing the Conference Resolutions Committee. See Rules of Order 1045.00 in the 2017 *IACJ* for the Conference rules governing Resolutions.
8. Please refer to the "Tips for Writing Resolutions" on page 7.
9. Please use the official "Resolution Proposal Form" for each subject. Use the fillable

form located on the conference website. A sample of that form is contained in this *Book of Resolutions*, p. 9. If you have questions, contact resolutions@iaumc.org or Felicia Coe at 515-974-8911 or

Felicia Coe
Iowa Conference Center
2301 Rittenhouse Street
Des Moines, IA 50321-3101

10. In addition to being the official record of the Iowa Annual Conference's resolutions, the *BOR* is designed to be a program and study resource for local church groups. Churches may want to use the book with adult and youth church school classes, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Church and Society Committees, and Council on Ministries. Also, it is a good resource for special issue forums or meetings. Individual United Methodists, who view social action through legislation as their particular ministry or who feel a calling and passion to understand how our faith calls us to be aware of and take action on social justice and mission issues – locally, nationally, and globally, can use the handbook in preparation for communicating about issues with legislators and members of congress. The *BOR* can be found on the Iowa Conference website www.iaumc.org.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING AND PROCESSING RESOLUTIONS

1. The procedures for submitting resolutions to Annual Conference can be found in the Rules of Order 1045.00, in the *2017 IACJ*.
2. A resolution is a statement of position on an issue or concern. It has two parts, beginning with "Whereas" statements which give rationale and supportive data and ending with "Be it resolved" statements of position and/or action. **Resolutions do not request or call for the expenditure of funds by the Annual Conference.**
3. Please refer to the 2016 General Conference *Social Principles and Book of Resolutions* and the *2021 Iowa Annual Conference BOR* for the Church's present positions on issues. After considering these and the Biblical imperatives, local churches are encouraged to:
 - a) write resolutions on additional issues or concerns the Church ought to address, or
 - b) amend the present resolutions of the Iowa Annual Conference Resolutions.
4. These matters are presented to the Annual Conference in odd numbered years (i.e. 2021, 2023, 2025, etc.) The submission process begins immediately following the even numbered Annual Conferences. **The next Annual Conference for consideration of resolutions will be 2023. Only resolutions concerning "Urgent matters" or suggestions for resolutions that should be repealed will be considered at the 2022 Annual Conference.** An "urgent matter" is defined as issues that did not exist prior to the last deadline and for which action is required before the next regular Resolutions year (Rules of Order 1045.05). **Announcements of procedures, forms and deadlines for submitting resolutions will be advertised throughout the annual conference and posted to the conference website in the fall following the even-numbered annual conference sessions.**
5. Individuals, congregations, or districts shall submit new resolutions, amendments to existing resolutions or recommendations for repeal of existing resolutions to the Conference Resolutions Committee prior to the date designated by the Committee on Resolutions in consultation with the Episcopal office. New and amended resolutions are submitted in even numbered year (2022, 2024, 2026, etc.) to be voted on in odd numbered years by Iowa Annual Conference.
 - a) Resolutions submitted after the announced deadline shall be returned to the author(s) of the resolution.
 - b) The Resolutions Committee shall review all submissions to assure their

compliance with the guidelines outlined in the Conference Rule of Order. Submitted resolutions that do not meet the criteria will be returned to the author(s), to be resubmitted.

6. Conference Agencies may submit their own resolutions to the Conference Resolutions Committee following announced deadlines.
7. The Resolutions Committee will review all submitted Resolutions or amendments and shall:
 - a. Reject any resolutions that:
 - i. Are the same as or similar to an already existing General Conference or Iowa Annual Conference Resolution, unless cast as an amendment to the existing resolution. (Any request for a change to a General Conference Resolution or to the *Book of Discipline* should be cast as a petition to General Conference.)
 - ii. Do not contain footnotes to support factual claims made in the resolution.
 - iii. Are inconsistent with or contradictory to a current resolution, except in cases where the submission amends an existing resolution.
 - iv. Are in conflict with the current *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
 - b. Notify the drafter of any resolution that is rejected of such rejection, including the reason for the rejection.
 - c. Submit all other resolutions to the editor of the Pre-Conference Manual.
 - d. Promote and interpret the resolution process at all levels of the Annual Conference.
8. Resolutions that are submitted after the deadline set forth above and that are determined by the Resolutions Committee to concern Urgent Issues shall be submitted by the Resolutions Committee to the Pre-Conference Manual editor prior to the beginning of Annual Conference Session.
9. All resolutions submitted shall:
 - a. Contain no more than 250 words, excluding title and footnotes.
 - b. Address only one subject matter.
 - c. Include paragraph or section references to the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, the *General Conference Book of Resolutions* or the Iowa Annual Conference Book of Resolutions.
 - d. Include book, chapter, verse and translation in all references to Scripture.
 - e. State, when appropriate, that it is an amendment to an existing resolution, including the resolution number, and restate the language of the existing resolution with language to be removed and language to be added double underlined.
 - f. State, as appropriate, the purpose of the motion (to appeal or amend) in the title and refer to the resolution to be repealed or amended by Number and Title.
 - g. Be typed and submitted in Microsoft word format.

TIPS FOR WRITING RESOLUTIONS

1. Prior to writing a resolution, check the index in the *Book of Resolutions* to see if there is already a resolution on that topic.
2. If there is a current, existing resolution, consider recommending an amendment to the resolution rather than submitting a new resolution. Do not submit resolutions which duplicate or are inconsistent with existing Iowa Annual Conference or General Conference resolutions.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM
(please use on-line version found on conference website)

Title or Subject _____

Original Drafter _____

Church _____ PHONE _____

Date Submitted _____

E-mail address _____

SUBMITTED THROUGH:

- _____ LOCAL CHURCH AGENCY
- _____ DISTRICT AGENCY
- _____ CONFERENCE AGENCY
- _____ INDIVIDUAL

THIS IS A:

- _____ NEW RESOLUTION
- _____ RESOLUTION WITHOUT CHANGE
- _____ AMENDED RESOLUTION

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Resolutions must be typed and preferably in Microsoft word format.
2. Submit only one resolution subject per form.
3. Before drafting a resolution, see "Tips for Writing Resolutions" and the "Editor's Notes" in the current *Book of Resolutions*.
4. Attach a document detailing the history of the resolution. If this refers to a resolution from a prior conference session, cite the prior resolution. If this amends an existing resolution or is substantially the same as a resolution presented to the immediate past conference session but not adopted by the session, explain your reasoning for the change and/or resubmission.
5. If amending an existing resolution, resolution should be submitted showing original resolution with changes being proposed.
6. Resolutions exceeding 250 words will be returned to the author and may be resubmitted when rewritten to comply with the word limit.

If unable to complete the on-line version on the conference website, or if you have questions contact Felicia Coe at resolutions@iaumc.org or 515-974-8911 or

Felicia Coe
Iowa Conference Center of the UMC
2301 Rittenhouse Street
Des Moines, IA 50321-3101

For Office Use Only: Legislative Section/Number _____

RESOLUTIONS

The Organization of the Resolutions is according to the six main sections of the *2016 Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*. There is also a seventh section dealing with Annual Conference administration issues. Within each of the seven sections you will find Resolutions with 9000 numbers.

100 NATURAL WORLD

9101. Agricultural Research in Iowa (1987, 2003)

WHEREAS: God has blessed Iowa with tremendous agricultural resources, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa economy has, is, and will continue to be dependent upon agriculture to a high degree, and

WHEREAS: Iowa State University has historically been a leading center of agricultural research for the state and world agricultural communities, and

WHEREAS: Past funding for much agricultural research has not reversed the trend toward larger, fewer and more capital-intensive farms;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference appeals to Iowa State University, the Governor and state legislative bodies to:

1. Make a concerted effort to maintain Iowa State University as a leading agricultural research center, appropriate for a leading agricultural state;
2. Seek ways to fund Iowa State University's agricultural research at a level sufficient to slow its growing dependence upon outside agribusiness/corporate financing; and
3. Encourage agricultural research designed to benefit and help preserve the family farm and environmental stewardship in Iowa, including support for the work of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9102. Soil Conservation (1990, 2017)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church strongly endorses best practices for soil conservation, knowing that life on earth is directly linked to soil fertility, and

WHEREAS: The State of Iowa is one of the richest food producing zones in the world because of its soil fertility, enabling family farms to prosper ever since tillage began here, and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service is charged with protecting national soil resources, and

WHEREAS: The 1985 Food Security Act specifies a soil loss rate of no more than five tons per acre per year on 12 percent (D slopes) or less per year, and

WHEREAS: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service recognizes that more than five tons per acre loss per year may adversely affect or alter farming operations or create intolerable burdens on farming communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference strongly urges the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to maintain these reasonable minimal soil loss standards of no more than five tons per acre per year on up to and including D slopes (12 percent).

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9103. Sustainable Agriculture Models (1991, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference is interested in supporting various ways of promoting sustainable agriculture practices (i.e., reduced-chemical and no-chemical) through local churches, and

WHEREAS: We would seek to accomplish the following goals:

1. Generate involvement among grassroots citizens,
2. Help raise awareness about the relationship between ground water quality and current farming practices,
3. Provide interested persons with useful information and assistance regarding the 'nuts and bolts' of farming with fewer chemicals, and
4. Provide a context that is supportive of sustainable agriculture, and

WHEREAS: Accomplishment of these goals would be based on a variety of activities, including:

1. Sustainable ag farm tours,
2. Farmer-to-Farmer and Farmer-to-Student workshops,
3. Promoting and distributing sustainable ag packets and information,
4. Water testing projects,
5. Face-to-face planning sessions for developing chemical-reduction plans for particular farms,
6. Public informational meetings, and
7. Other ideas and activities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference and local churches actively support programs studying and promoting these goals, projects and educational activities;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa farmers be encouraged to avail themselves of the resources and networks provided by various governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to better utilize sustainable agricultural models and methods.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9104. Forests, Wetlands and Prairies in Iowa (1985, 2017)

WHEREAS: Iowa's forested land has dwindled from 6.5 million acres in the 1840's when Iowa was settled to over 3 million acres today (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry>), and

WHEREAS: Tax and financial incentives encourage land owners to plant trees, and

WHEREAS: An excellent state tree nursery is located in Ames to provide quality seedlings at a reasonable cost, and

WHEREAS: Iowa forest land is over 90 per cent privately owned, and

WHEREAS: Future generations are dependent on our actions today;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports "the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry's Mission to help Iowans to expand and care for Iowa's over 3 million acres of trees and forests..."and endorses a similar recommendation that marginally productive lands currently under cultivation be reserved for wetlands, prairie or reforested so as to maintain and/or expand Iowa forests and recommends that this be accomplished by voluntarily through cooperation with the Iowa

Department of Natural Resources, private land owners and environmental groups, not by government edict;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference challenges all United Methodist farmers and land managers to convert their least productive lands being tilled to wetlands, prairies and/or forests, as recommended by USDA Natural Resources Conservation personnel.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9105. Iowa's Water (1985, 2003)

WHEREAS: While we are stewards of God's gift of usable water, we must confess that our modern lifestyle is wasteful of water, and

WHEREAS: Ground/aquifer water reserves provide the primary source for both Iowa's residential and industrial water use, and

WHEREAS: Both ground and surface waters in the state are being threatened with contamination from diverse sources;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference encourages Iowa United Methodists and all Iowans to:

1. Practice conservation so as to minimize waste of pure water in churches, parsonages, homes, farms and businesses;
2. Utilize the comprehensive Iowa Department of Natural Resources water plan establishing priorities for water use in case of drought and other water emergency;
3. Carefully and regularly monitor the purity of state water supplies, especially the numerous wells located on and providing drinking water to rural farms, small rural communities and suburban and rural home sites;
4. Seek continued vigorous implementation of the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act, designed to maintain and improve the water quality for all Iowans;
5. Encourage a primary emphasis on voluntary stewardship action and be careful to use scientific information before our government spends tax monies to make rules and regulations; and
6. Urge the DNR to enforce existing rules pertaining to the size, speed and horsepower of boats in our Iowa waterways in order to alleviate the alarming erosion of our shorelines, which results in serious problems of siltation and pollution.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9106. Responsible Consumption of Natural Resources/Earth Day (1981, 2017)

WHEREAS: Our American lifestyle is among the most consumptive of natural resources in the world, and

WHEREAS: We have an obligation as Christians to share these resources with people in other countries and with future generations, and

WHEREAS: Renewable energy holds enormous economic and environmental opportunities for the state of Iowa because, from wind to solar to switchgrass, Iowa's portfolio of natural resources—combined with its agricultural and technological expertise—makes the state an ideal leader in the development of "homegrown" energy, and

WHEREAS: The state of Iowa has a goal of 20 percent being renewable energy by 2020;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Urges all United Methodists to examine their lifestyle by determining their carbon footprint and eliminating unnecessary consumption of resources, especially energy;
2. Encourages the development, manufacture and use of affordable efficient alternate-powered vehicles instead of fossil fuel powered vehicles;
3. Encourages Iowa United Methodists to observe Earth Day in union with persons all over the world, using it as an opportunity to raise awareness of the growing danger of climate change along with its solutions;
4. Affirms progress that has been made in renewable energy production and energy conservation; supports a Mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) of 20 percent being renewable energy by 2020; and
5. Encourages the Iowa Legislature, the Iowa Utilities Board and the public utility companies to support legislation which funds renewable energy research and development.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9107. Oil Spills Response (1989, 2017)

WHEREAS: The United States produces, distributes, and consumes large quantities of petroleum, and

WHEREAS: This production, distribution and consumption carries significant potential for spillage, and

WHEREAS: Oil spills result in serious damage, especially in fragile environments such as Prince William Sound, Alaska, which is still recovering from the Exxon Valdez spill (1989), and

WHEREAS: The pristine nature, ecological and cultural integrity of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest caribou breeding ground in the world, faces unacceptable risk from oil exploration or drilling;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls for:

1. Responsible conservation of petroleum to decrease risks of damaging oil spills;
2. Continued implementation of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 addressing oil spill prevention, cleanup, and liability;
3. Rigorous ongoing environmental review of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline; and
4. The U.S. Congress to prohibit oil production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as our country grows our ability to meet our energy needs through conservation and other, especially renewable, sources.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9108. Animal Welfare (1991, 2003)

WHEREAS: God created people in the image of God and charged them to be faithful stewards of all creation, including the animals of the world, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference has adopted resolution #7320 (*2001 Book of Resolutions*), "Promoting the Family Farm," and many Iowa farmers raise livestock, using animal welfare methods that adequately care for the animals, and

WHEREAS: Livestock production in Iowa is extremely important to the economic stability of the State, and

WHEREAS: Careful and humane use of animals in some research situations is vital to successful medical advances in fighting diseases such as cancer and AIDS, and

WHEREAS: Animal welfarists are persons who believe in the humane care of animals, including, but not limited to, nutritious feed, sanitary water, shelter from adverse weather conditions and predators and medical attention for disease or injury;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference favors animal welfare, believing that God has given us a right to use animals for food and some medical research, but not the right to abuse them.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9109. Energy Conservation (1981, 2017)

WHEREAS: The Church is called to good stewardship and to be a positive example in all things, and

WHEREAS: Excellent resources such as Iowa Interfaith Power and Light's Cool Congregation program (<http://iowaipl.org/act/cool-congregations-2>) enable congregations to improve in energy conservation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all church buildings, parsonages and new additions shall be designed to reflect current energy efficiency standards;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That each congregation and the Board of Trustees of all conference agencies evaluate existing structures and bring them, insofar as possible, to meet current energy efficient standards;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That each Board of Trustees shall report at Charge Conference with regard to energy use and energy efficiency in buildings for which they are responsible.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9110. Iowa's Beverage Container Deposit Law (1999, 2003)

WHEREAS: A large majority of Iowans support the present Bottle Law and want to expand it to reduce litter, and landfill garbage, and encourage recycling, and

WHEREAS: Studies across the nation of alternatives to a bottle deposit law show that no alternative comes close to the effectiveness of the Iowa law, in fact studies show that a dual curbside/deposit program will remove more materials from the waste stream at less cost than a curbside program alone, and

WHEREAS: Many types of recyclable beverage containers have come on the market since Iowa first adopted the law in 1978;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports the following changes in Iowa's beverage container deposit law:

- 1 Place the 5-cent deposit on bottles and cans used for tea, water, fruit and vegetable juices and drinks, sports drinks, and other non-carbonated beverages excluding milk;
- 2 Increase the per-container handling fee paid to grocery stores and redemption centers from one to two cents and establish a schedule for future increases (this would not increase the deposit);
- 3 Create the "Robert D. Ray Beautiful Land Fund" to support local and state litter and recycling initiatives; and
- 4 Require all beverage containers sold in Iowa to be made of recycled material equal to a minimum post-consumer recycled content of 25 per cent by weight.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9111. Public Transportation (1981, 2017)

WHEREAS: Public transportation compared to individually operated vehicles uses less energy materials in the production of vehicles, and

WHEREAS: Energy use is significantly reduced when persons or goods are transported by public transportation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges its members to:

1. Use public transportation for travel when a choice is available;
2. Encourage government and business to promote and expand present public transportation systems for persons and goods (including rail transportation) whenever possible; and
3. Develop improved systems;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference encourages increased public transit (bus, commuter trains, etc.) rather than adding lanes to freeway systems in expanding urban areas of Iowa.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9112. Global Climate Change (2007, 2017)

Whereas: God calls Christians to be good stewards of God's creation and to protect and sustain that creation for all future generations, and

Whereas: There is growing evidence and an increasing scientific consensus indicating that the atmosphere is warming, that the impact of global warming will become more pronounced over time, and that this warming is caused primarily by humans, and

Whereas: The impacts of changes in climate extremes fall disproportionately on the poor, creating increased incidence of hardship and serious illness in Iowa's older age groups and the poor, and

WHEREAS: Those who are suffering the most and those who will continue to suffer the most from climate change are those least responsible for climate change, thus creating a situation of climate injustice;

Therefore, be it resolved: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges both individuals and churches to:

1. Join in covenant with other people of faith and faith-based organizations in Iowa, such as Iowa Interfaith Power and Light and the Interfaith Green Coalition and other environmental organizations, to work together to halt the human impact on global warming and reduce the impact of global climate change;
2. Support energy policy legislation at local, state, and federal levels that promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency; and
3. Support governmental and church-based funding efforts to assist those most affected by climate change.

REVIEW BY: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Conference Chapter

9113. Local Congregations Participate in Carbon Footprint Evaluation (2011)

WHEREAS: The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states in paragraph

160 D- Global Climate Stewardship: “We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries and communities to reduce their emissions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages each and every congregation to begin this process by participating in the carbon footprint evaluation.

REVIEWED BY: Board of Church and Society

9114. Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods (2014)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Social Principles (paragraph 160.G) state that “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the way in which we use and abuse it”, and

WHEREAS: Our Social Principles (paragraph 160.G) state, “We support policies that... ensure the public’s right to know the content of the foods they are eating”, and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles (paragraph 160.G) further state, “We call for clear labeling of all processed or altered foods...”, and

WHEREAS: Genetically Engineered products are on the market and no labeling is required by federal agencies, and

WHEREAS: The environmental effects of Genetically Engineered foods include intensified agrochemical use and pollution¹, and

WHEREAS: More and more studies are pointing to the health risks of Genetically Engineered foods², and

WHEREAS: Iowa provides significant agricultural resources to the world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference support both state and federal legislation for labeling of Genetically Engineered foods; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference will urge both individuals and churches to educate congregations about Genetically Engineered foods and why it is important to label our food.

¹2008 Book of Resolutions, section 3184, Guidelines for Developing Genetically Modified Organisms, pg. 337-338, and ²“Genetically Engineered Food, An Overview”, by Food and Water Watch, May 2012, pg. 10-11 & 15-16.

9115. Addressing Plastic Pollution (2019)

WHEREAS: United Methodists recognize that “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings,”¹ and

WHEREAS: Plastic pollution in the form of straws, bags, bottles and more is choking our oceans, poisoning our food and water supplies, and threatening the health and well-being of both humans and wildlife through plastic waste that doesn’t biodegrade, most of which isn’t recycled and continues to exist in some form for hundreds of years,² and

WHEREAS: There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way;³ and if plastic production isn’t curbed, plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by

2050;⁴

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls on its members, churches, and organizations to assess their use of single-use plastics, including straws, drink bottles, bags, plates, cups, and utensils, and work to transition to reusable or alternative biodegradable products;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports advocacy and partnerships with local leaders and businesses as well as the larger political and economic community for practices and policies that will greatly reduce dependency on single-use plastics, ensure future sustainable lifestyles, and encourage the responsible use of materials of production in the world.

¹ Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, ¶160. The Natural World, *Book of Discipline*

² Fact Sheet: End Plastic Pollution (www.earthday.org) and National Geographic, <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment>

³ United Nations, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/02/552052-turn-tide-plastic-urges-un-microplastics-seas-now-outnumber-stars-our-galaxy#.WLA81BLyvBJ>

⁴ World Economic Forum Report, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_New_Plastics_Economy.pdf

Submitted by: Rita Carter

9116. Climate Crisis Emergency (2019)

WHEREAS: Over the past forty years, the UMC, along with religious leaders from other faiths and denominations, has issued countless statements on the goodness of Creation and our call to act as responsible stewards, all of which has been an insufficient witness¹, and

WHEREAS: This historic moment provides faith communities with a powerful opportunity to bear witness to the sacredness of God's Creation now in crisis and the urgent call to preserve it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference raise its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of this climate crisis;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference call upon its churches and clergy to prayerfully engage the following as we seek to be faithful in this climate emergency:

- Let our clergy accept the mantle of moral leadership by preaching regularly on the moral obligation of our generation to protect God's Creation, and let our Bishop and District Superintendents fully support and encourage our clergy;
- Let us all incarnate the changes we seek in our individual and congregational energy choices, undoing the disproportionate impact of climate crisis on communities of color, indigenous communities, and poor white communities, and committing to hold all our religious, political, corporate, and global leaders responsible to create a sustainable world; and
- Let us create a new story for our generation – a story not dependent on fossil fuel but on transitioning to renewable fuel and let us commit ourselves to bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice.

¹ This resolution is inspired and based on "A Resolution of Witness Passed by United Church of Christ National Synod on July 3, 2017."

Climate Church, Climate World (How People of Faith Must Work for Change), by Jim Antal, © 2018, published by Rowman and Littlefield, p.

Submitted by: Dick Clark

200 NURTURING COMMUNITY

9201. Abortion (2005)

WHEREAS: The Social Principles (*2004 Book of Discipline*) of the United Methodist Church (161J) clearly affirm our respect for life and concern for the life and well-being of the pregnant woman, and

WHEREAS: Many lives would be in danger if abortions became illegal and women had no access to a safe medical procedure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports state and federal legislation that maintains the legal option of abortion under proper legal medical procedures;

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9202. Legal Definition of the Beginning of Human Life (1985, 2003)

WHEREAS: There is sharp disagreement as to when human life begins, and

WHEREAS: There is an effort to incorporate into law one specific theological position;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges members of Congress and the Iowa General Assembly to resist all efforts to change the legal definition of the beginning of human life to the time of conception.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9203. Christian Behavior Toward LGBTQ Persons (1998, 2017)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Social Principles affirm that “sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons”; “all persons are individuals of sacred worth”; and “all persons...are entitled to...be protected against violence (Social Principles, The 2016 Book of Discipline, par. 161G), and

WHEREAS: Hate, physical violence, threats of violence, and name-calling against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons denies their sacred worth, and

WHEREAS: This violence can lead to low self-esteem and self-hatred, resulting in many problems, including a higher suicide rate among gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer teenagers, and

WHEREAS: Insufficient condemnation by the church of violent behavior creates an environment wherein those who commit violent acts believe their behavior is acceptable;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Affirms the duty of all Christians to demonstrate Christian love for all persons;
2. Strongly condemns and opposes all kinds of hate, physical violence, threats of violence, and name-calling as un-Christian and wrong;
3. Acknowledges that differences over theological understandings about homosexuality should be expressed in a spirit of Christian love and non-violence;
4. Encourages local congregations of The United Methodist Church to educate themselves about the problem of violence and witness to their communities about

- these problems, especially when local incidents occur; and
5. Calls on all United Methodists to refrain from violent behavior and to inform themselves and the residents of their communities about the dangers of such behavior.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9204. Support for Statutory Prohibitions from Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation (1998, 2003)

WHEREAS: Within the nurturing community, our Social Principles (*2004 Book of Discipline*, par. 161G.), insist all persons, regardless of *sexual orientation*, are entitled to have their civil rights ensured, and

WHEREAS: Under our system of government, civil rights include prohibition from discrimination in the workplace based upon personal characteristics (age, gender, race, etc.); and these civil rights are not *ensured* unless protected by law, and

WHEREAS: Discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation is not prohibited in federal or state statute;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports the enactment of the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) which would prohibit the use of sexual orientation as a basis for employment decisions (exempting religious organizations);

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we call upon the Iowa General Assembly to enact protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we commend the cities of Cedar Rapids, Ames, Iowa City and Davenport for ensuring by local ordinance the civil rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation, and call upon other cities to ensure these civil rights where existing ordinances prohibit discrimination on the basis of other personal characteristics.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9205. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (1988, 2003) – This resolution was renumbered to 9330 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9206. Supporting Spiritual Growth (1999, 2003)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church needs equal and active participation by women and men, working together within the body of Christ, and

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church supports the goal of strong marriages and healthy families through the ideal of marriage as an equal, loving and sacrificial partnership, and

WHEREAS: Every Christian disciple, male or female, is called to a life of continuing spiritual growth and service to others, and

WHEREAS: Our culture too often teaches the heresy that spiritual life is of little importance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference commends those who have taken steps to grow spiritually and, if married, to strengthen their marriages, whether individually or in groups in the church or the ecumenical community;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges all to actively seek and advocate equality between men and women in the church and in marriage, to build up the church by supporting pastors and leaders, both male and female, and to grow disciples by encouraging people in their spiritual lives;

REVIEW BY: Board of Discipleship

9208. Affirmation of Council of Bishops Proposed “Way Forward” (2016)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church continues to struggle to live faithfully in diverse social contexts in our global church, especially as relates to our statements and policies regarding human sexuality, and

WHEREAS: The 2016 General Conference recognized our ongoing struggle and took the unprecedented action of requesting the collective guidance of the Council of Bishops, and

WHEREAS: The Council of Bishops responded with a call to unity and prayer, and proposed a special Commission on human sexuality and a special General Conference on the themes of the global church and human sexuality, and

WHEREAS: The General Conference affirmed the Council of Bishop’s proposal and endorsed it for action;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference affirms the Council of Bishops’ proposed way forward, and endorses the plan for a special Commission on human sexuality and a special General Conference on the themes of the global church and human sexuality; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: We call for the Council of Bishops to name a broadly representative Commission, intentionally including LGBTQ clergy and laity as well as respected leaders from progressive, traditionalist, and orthodox movements; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: We call upon the United Methodist congregations of Iowa to engage active prayer and discussion of the global nature of the church and human sexuality, under the guidance of our Bishop and District Superintendents.

Submitted by St. Mark’s UMC, Iowa City; St. Timothy’s UMC, Cedar Falls; First UMC, Des Moines; Trinity UMC, Des Moines.

300 SOCIAL COMMUNITY

9301. Alcoholic Beverage Sales to Minors (1985, 2003)

WHEREAS: The use of alcoholic beverages under legal drinking age has reached dangerous proportions, and

WHEREAS: Sales of alcohol by licensed dealers to persons under legal drinking age seriously aggravate this problem, and

WHEREAS: Adolescents may become alcoholics very quickly, and

WHEREAS: Current penalties for such illegal sales do not provide any adequate deterrent;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon the General Assembly of Iowa to increase the penalty for selling alcohol to minors as follows:

1. Mandatory suspensions of license beginning with 30 days for the first offense and ranging up to revocation of license for a third offense within any period of time; and

2. Increasing the fines beginning with \$250 for the first offense and ranging up to \$5,000 fine for a third offense within any period of time.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9303. Affirming Diversity of Languages (1989, 2005)

WHEREAS: We wish to affirm the presence and contributions to our culture made by persons from different racial and ethnic groups and the importance of their native language(s) in maintaining their wholeness and integrity, and

WHEREAS: Certain organizations and groups are actively promoting a movement to mandate English as the official language of Iowa and the United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Affirms English as the "primary," but not exclusive, language of the United States of America and of the State of Iowa;
2. Opposes all attempts to deny the right of persons to use the native language that is a unifying component of the culture that is uniquely theirs by heritage and be aware of the potential of roots of racism in such attempts;
3. Expresses in writing to our state and federal officials our support for practices and policies which permit provision of essential information (such as public signs, emergency numbers, language services, bi-lingual and English as Second Language education and the like) in languages appropriate to the residents of local communities; and
4. Expresses in writing to our state elected officials our desire to repeal the English Reaffirmation Act.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9304. Inclusive Language and Imagery (1985, 2003)

WHEREAS: Language and visual images are basic to learning, thereby playing an influential role in the socialization process, and

WHEREAS: Words and images can reflect stereotypes and subtly or overtly influence people to assume roles, positions and levels of status and consequently have significant effects on human behavior and relationships, and

WHEREAS: As an expression of shared assumptions, languages and images may distort perceptions until stereotypes and myths about age, race, sex and disabilities are accepted as reality, and

WHEREAS: As Christians, we are concerned with implementing God's command to recognize the sacred worth of each individual;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all United Methodists continue to endeavor to use language and visual images which recognize the sacred worth of each individual and endeavor to avoid communications which demean, stereotype or oppress persons in any way;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That individuals and local congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the use of inclusive language and imagery as an issue of social justice, and to become sensitive to and utilize inclusive language and imagery in regard to all persons, regardless of race, sex, age or disabilities.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9305. Giving Life/Organ and Tissue Transplants (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Donor Network reports that there is a long waiting list of persons needing organs and tissues in order to attain some normal quality of life and that many do not survive because organs are not available;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Encourages every member of the Conference to become an organ and tissue donor and so indicate on their driver's license, fill out an organ donor identification card to be carried at all times, and register with the Iowa Donor Network;
2. Emphasizes the importance of all persons who desire to be organ and tissue donors to discuss their wishes with family members now, so loved ones become aware of these desires before an accident or emergency occurs;
3. Encourages churches to publicize and take an active role, promoting a positive outcome to this social problem and utilizing the resources of the Iowa Donor Network to present programs, distribute literature and raise the awareness of all persons, to the end that positive actions affirming and giving life to others might be taken, even in the face of personal tragedies, grief and loss;
4. Encourages an annual organ/tissue donor awareness information Sunday at a date set by the local church; and
5. Encourage having organ donor identification cards available at all churches, district and conference offices, and in the future to have it included with other annual conference materials.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9306. Health Ministry in Iowa (2001, 2003)

WHEREAS: Jesus and the early church frequently reached out to lead persons toward greater health and wholeness. Jesus healed the hemorrhaging woman and Bartimaeus, and Peter and John helped the paralyzed man to walk. They ministered to persons' physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs, and

WHEREAS: In response, General Conference affirmed that the church understands itself as called by the Lord to the holistic ministry of healing: spiritual, emotional, and physical (*Book of Resolutions* 2000, Resolution 96, p. 263). It challenges United Methodists to make health concerns a priority in the church, and

WHEREAS: Iowans face many challenges to health and wholeness. As of 1999, over one third of Iowans were obese, the sixth highest rate in the country. Iowa leads the nation in the percentage of persons over age 85. Aging and obesity increase Iowans' risk for many chronic diseases: diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke. Chronic diseases often significantly affect persons' mental and spiritual health;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: We challenge Iowa United Methodists to participate in health ministry as part of their calling to lead persons toward wholeness in Christ. We encourage churches to establish health and wholeness ministries, including:

- Blood pressure screening
- Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization Clinics
- Shut-in visitation
- Mental Health education and support
- Blood Donation Drives
- Grief and Loss support
- Care giver support
- Healthy Lifestyle Promotion and
- Formal Health Ministries, such as Parish Nursing, Stephens Ministry, and BeFriends Ministry.

9307. Necessary Medical Care for Children (1991, 2003)

WHEREAS: We acknowledge that spirit and flesh are not enemies but are both blessed by God. Thus, medical care is a gift of God, a miracle of research and love brought through God's grace and love and human's compassion and dedication to doing good, and

WHEREAS: Several children have died in recent years because of religious beliefs against medical care, and

WHEREAS: Our courts have consistently ruled that freedom of religion does not extend to allowing harm to come to others;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference affirms prayer as an important factor in holistic healing, but it should not serve as a legal substitute for medical care when the life of a minor is at stake;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports Iowa laws that entitle children to life-saving medical care along with food, clothing and shelter regardless of their parents' religious beliefs.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9309. Pornography Law Enforcement (1985, 2003)

WHEREAS: We believe all persons to be of inestimable sacred worth as children of God, and

WHEREAS: Pornography not only ignores the worth but denigrates and debases all human beings, especially women and children, and

WHEREAS: Pornography on the Internet is especially invasive of homes and potentially harmful to young children;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports the strengthening of the existing laws and regulations governing the manufacture and dissemination of pornographic materials, with the specific goal of greatly reducing or eliminating all pornographic material from public availability;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges the enforcement branches of both state and federal government to enforce anti-pornography laws vigorously;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: Urge both state and Federal authorities to prosecute all violations of present or future pornographic laws to the fullest.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9311. The Gift of Racial and Cultural Diversity (2003)

WHEREAS: The story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11) challenges us to move toward a vision where people with different races, languages and cultures were communicating with each other, and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church affirm and recognize diversity as a gift: "We rejoice in the gifts that particular ethnic histories and cultures bring to our total life," "As individuals are affirmed by God in their diversity, so are nations and cultures" (2000 *Book of Discipline*, ¶162.A; ¶165.A), and

WHEREAS: We are called to embrace and appreciate racial and cultural diversity and strive toward creating an inclusive church with a diverse people of God;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church uplifts and affirms all of God's diversity expressed in humankind;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we encourage all United Methodist congregations to affirm, accept, celebrate, and welcome everyone in all our diversity with "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors."

REVIEW BY: Commission on Religion and Race

9314. Racist and Tyrannical Groups (1978, 2003)

WHEREAS: Racist and tyrannical groups pose a special threat to our civil liberties, and

WHEREAS: God has created us as persons of equal stature, and intended us to love and support each other;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference stands opposed to any influence undermining this Christian understanding and specifically condemns groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the American-Nazi Party, Posse Comitatus, Christian Identity, National States Rights Party and all other racist and tyrannical groups which are known to be preaching hatred and death toward persons differing from themselves;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference expresses strong opposition to these ideas and urges United Methodists to show by word and non-violent action their abhorrence to these concepts and to inform themselves and the residents of their communities of the dangers of these racist groups.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9315. Support of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (1989, 2003)

WHEREAS: United Methodists in Iowa have long been supporters of the Martin Luther King Holiday, and

WHEREAS: We recognize that the King holiday is not a holiday for African-Americans only, but a holiday for all Americans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That United Methodists in Iowa work through their local churches and in cooperation with other denominations and/or community groups to support and encourage appropriate celebrations of the Martin Luther King Holiday in their communities.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9316. Youth Combating Racism (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: The "Renunciation of Sin" and "Profession of Faith" in Christ, as a part of our Baptismal Covenant asks, "Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression, in whatever forms they present themselves?", and

WHEREAS: These evils include racism;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference encourages local church youth and District Youth Councils to help combat this evil by:

1. Encouraging acceptance of all peoples and discouraging racism and racist acts

towards all people;

2. Encouraging local congregations to learn about the make-up of their community and develop ways for ethnic persons to feel more welcome in the faith community;
3. Encouraging mission trips and other learning experiences. These help to broaden cultural awareness; and
4. Being in ministry to and with ethnic local congregations and ministries in the Iowa Annual Conference.

REVIEW BY: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

9317. Bias Motivated Crimes (1999, 2001)

WHEREAS: We believe that all people are created in the image of God, and are therefore of equal and infinite value, and

WHEREAS: We deplore and condemn the violence of bias motivated crimes related to or directed to a person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability, economic status or for any other reason, and

WHEREAS: Careless or intentional verbal abuse may be construed by some as incitement to brutality and violence, and

WHEREAS: The reluctance of Christians to challenge the rhetoric of hate and to speak out against malicious acts of violence contributes to a hostile atmosphere in which bias motivated crimes are tolerated, and

WHEREAS: Existing Iowa law presently enhances punishment for bias motivated crime rather than making bias an element of proof;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we applaud the bias motivated crime legislation currently existing in Iowa and urge law enforcement, prosecutors and the Judiciary to vigorously enforce the law in all appropriate cases;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we encourage United Methodists to speak out against the rhetoric of hate, and the violence of bias motivated crimes, and instead to work for understanding and acceptance of all persons as children of God.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9318. Building Rural Community Outreach (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: Most of our United Methodist churches are located in farming communities and many of our churches serve farm families, and

WHEREAS: The farming community faces unprecedented socioeconomic changes, shifting growing numbers of farmers toward greater financial, social, mental, and spiritual struggles, and

WHEREAS: Prayer and evangelistic outreach have always been an important part of Christian discipleship;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That members of the Iowa Annual Conference be urged to become involved in the Safety Net Prayer project in prayer and outreach to farmers across the state, so they can be emotionally and spiritually uplifted.

REVIEW BY: Board of Discipleship

9319. Ongoing Support for Family Farms (1999, 2001)

WHEREAS: Iowa's communities are dependent upon a healthy agricultural economy for their wellbeing and a safe, stable food supply is best supported by a broad network of independent producers, and

WHEREAS: Corporate domination of agriculture production and processing leads to decreased competition for family farmers and outside investor-driven agriculture does not contribute to the local community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Conference supports federal farm policy that is designed to create market opportunities to help return the cost of production for crops and livestock raised by family sized farms and that this assistance should be targeted to those farms;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Iowa Conference supports antitrust, market reporting, market access and food labeling legislation to ensure that family farmers have opportunities in the marketplace and that consumers know the origin of their food;
2. That the Iowa Conference supports fair environmental standards to hold industrial farming operations accountable and that local governments should be allowed to enact common sense legislation;
3. That the Iowa Conference supports farm policy that encourages the ties between family farmers and consumers to encourage a safe and stable food supply;
4. That the Iowa Conference encourage careful study and prayerful response within our churches in order to provide an effective ministry to those affected by the rural crisis; and
5. That the Iowa Conference supports campaign finance reform that prohibits transnational corporations and/or their subsidiaries from purchasing influence of and access to political power through Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions and "soft money" donations.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9320. Second Hand Smoke (2003)

WHEREAS: Second hand smoke has been shown to be a factor in health problems for people of all ages, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference supports healthy living environments for all individuals, and

WHEREAS: Non-smokers in public areas should not be unwillingly subjected to the dangers of second-hand smoke;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports any local or state ordinances restricting the allowance of smoking and the production of second-hand smoke in public areas.

REVIEW BY: Youth Annual Conference.

9322. Elder Abuse and Neglect (2001, 2003)

WHEREAS: In 2001 Iowa's population ranked fourth in the nation for the largest percentage of persons over 65 years of age, and third for those over 75, and second for percentage of persons over 85, and

WHEREAS: "The National Center for Elder Abuse estimates that between 820,000 and 1,860,000 elders are maltreated each year and that many of these cases go unreported,

and

WHEREAS: Maltreatment of older adults occurs both in home and family settings and in institutional settings, and

WHEREAS: Elder abuse and neglect takes many forms such as:

physical – beatings, sexual abuse, improper use of restraints or medication, and failure to provide food/fluids, shelter and clothing;

psychological – verbal abuse, improper use of medications, sexual abuse, isolation abuse;

financial – stealing possessions, misuse or waste of assets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on congregations to:

1. Offer educational programs for the church and the community to raise awareness of the issue of elder abuse and neglect;
2. Offer support groups and respite care for families caring for an elderly member;
3. Encourage members to report suspected older adult abuse or neglect to proper authorities;
4. Work with state policy makers and local officials to address abuse, neglect and other issues of older adults; and
5. Encourage Iowa United Methodist's to become advocates for older adults living in care facilities.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9323. Ministry with Persons with Disabilities (1983, 2003)

WHEREAS: Nearly fifty million Americans experience one or more disabling conditions, and

WHEREAS: A large part of Christ's ministry focused on persons with disabling conditions, and

WHEREAS: Prevailing social norms unduly glorify the conditions of youthful beauty, mental alertness and material affluence to the exclusion and avoidance of those whose disabling conditions put them outside these norms, and

WHEREAS: As we seek wholeness in Christ's church through promoting the full inclusion and participation of ALL persons, we strive to set all persons free from any barriers which limit the full expression of faith;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges its members to:

1. Work toward architectural barrier-free accessibility in all churches, parsonages and church related meeting places;
2. Advocate and work with other groups to increase awareness and sensitivity for persons with disabilities and their families;
3. Incorporate curriculum study materials and worship materials/aides to meet the needs of persons who are disabled within the congregation or community;
4. Acknowledge and encourage implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and recognize that United Methodists have a moral responsibility to ensure that people may participate in the worship and programs of the church without barrier; and
4. Encourage churches to regularly celebrate a Disability Awareness Sunday;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That it is recommended that each local church report its progress on the five points at the charge conference each year and that a summary be included in the District Superintendent's reports to the Annual Conference, with a copy forwarded to the Commission on Ministry to Persons with Disabilities.

REVIEW BY: Commission on Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

9324. Concern for Safety of Children (2003)

WHEREAS: The safety of all our children is critical, and

WHEREAS: Children can be in physical, mental, spiritual, and mortal danger if not removed from violent and neglectful homes, and

WHEREAS: Research has shown child abuse perpetrators without treatment have a high rate of repeating their acts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That, in cases of alleged child abuse, the Church-places the highest priority on the safety of the child;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the people of the Church become advocates for children's safety by serving as volunteers in children's and family programs in schools and communities;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Church supports:

1. Adequate funding for emergency foster care, to create safe places for children;
2. Adequate funding of Child Protective Services to permit child abuse and neglect investigations to proceed thoroughly and with all due speed;
3. Adequate funding for appropriate treatment of abusers;
4. Careful review of the Iowa Civil and criminal statutes of limitation for child sexual abuse to determine whether any extension or change of the current time limits would be fair and helpful;
5. Education of the public on the nature of child abuse, its causes, and consequences;
6. Adequate funding to support efforts to reunite and rebuild families where appropriate through counseling and education so as to break the cycle of child abuse; and
7. By creating strong church and neighborhood community bonds as to resolve issues, thus lessening the limited resources of the Child Protective Services.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9325. Statement on Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination (2005)

WHEREAS: All students deserve a safe, supportive environment in which all students can learn;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church recommends that the state legislature enact the following anti-harassment and non-discrimination policy for all school districts in Iowa: Bullying, harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated based on any real or perceived characteristic, including but not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental disability, ancestry, socioeconomic status or familial status;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That until the state legislature enacts such an anti-harassment and non-discrimination policy, the Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church recommends that individual school boards enact such policies to protect all students from bullying harassment and discrimination in their schools.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9326. Prayer for the Persecuted Church (2003, 2005)

WHEREAS: Over 200 million people in over sixty countries around the world face the reality of massacre, rape, torture, mutilation, family division, harassment, imprisonment, slavery and even death, simply because of their Christian beliefs, while another 400 million suffer from discrimination and legal impediments also because of their Christian beliefs, and

WHEREAS: Such discrimination is biblically unacceptable, unacceptable according to the *Discipline* and Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, and against our own nation's founding principle of freedom of religion, and

WHEREAS: Christians are enjoined to pray for one another: "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body" (Hebrews 13:3);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference strongly encourage its churches to participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) to encourage prayer for the persecuted communities of Christian faith around the world;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the churches of the Iowa Annual Conference continue in their awareness of the plight of the persecuted Christians as a human rights issue and as an issue of religious injustice and seek to become involved in beneficial advocacy programs.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9327. Tobacco (2007) - This resolution was renumbered to 9517 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9328. Making Pseudoephedrine Data Base Available to Law Enforcement (2007)

WHEREAS: The Iowa General Assembly and other state legislatures have tightened the controls on Pseudoephedrine and had passed a law that the retailer must keep information pertaining to the purchase of Pseudoephedrine, and

WHEREAS: There is no common data base of this information for law enforcement to access to prevent the makers of Methamphetamine from "Pharmacy hopping";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference encourage the U. S. Congress to create a mechanism for a common data base of the information collected by retailers to prevent "Pharmacy hopping". This data base should be available to all proper legal authorities.

Review by: Board of Church and Society

9329. Call to Action: Responding to Arizona SB-1070 (2010)

WHEREAS: God calls for love and justice for everyone, and

WHEREAS: Christians have differing views on the complex issues of immigration, and

WHEREAS: Arizona SB-1070 illustrates the failures of the present immigration situation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference requests continuing intercessory prayer for comprehensive immigration reform including all aspects, that are fair and just for all persons; and asks all Iowans to study this subject and express their views to lawmakers.

9330. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (1988, 2003)

WHEREAS: AIDS is still a global epidemic, and

WHEREAS: Jesus calls us to affirm God's love for all, including those living with AIDS;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Encourages government-funded AIDS research;
2. Encourages U.S. participation in international AIDS efforts;
3. Advocates fidelity in marriage as well as chastity in singleness;
4. Encourages AIDS education in schools and churches, emphasizing prevention of infection through abstinence from sexual intercourse and intravenous drug use;
5. Communicates that although some authorities encourage sexually active persons to use condoms, the use of condoms is not a sure prevention to HIV infection;
6. Shows concern to persons with AIDS by helping relieve their physical, spiritual, legal and mental suffering;
7. Provides a ministry of presence, advocacy and care for families and friends of persons with AIDS;
8. Accepts donations to be dispersed by Wesley Foundations and private colleges for AIDS education, by hospitals for respite care and by the National Advance Special for AIDS ministries; and
9. Commends those who speak out at personal and political risk on behalf of persons with AIDS and their families;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Conference Board of Church and Society operate a clearing house and speakers' bureau for this information, enabling the Church to be in prayerful study and discussion on this issue.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9332. Issuance of Drivers Licenses (2005)

WHEREAS: We are enjoined to welcome the stranger as one born among us, and

WHEREAS: We are committed to the elimination of social and economic distress, and

WHEREAS: We recognize that access to personal transportation is essential to the pursuit of a secure, productive and ordinary lifestyle, and

WHEREAS: Persons operating a motor vehicle not having demonstrated competence to drive and knowledge of applicable law constitute a threat to public safety;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports the issuance of Drivers Licenses, with the responsibilities attached thereto, to aliens residing in the State of Iowa;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we urge the same be accomplished without unreasonable hindrance and without regard to immigration status.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9333. Supporting Sexuality Education in Schools (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church lift up sexuality as "God's good gift to all persons" to be affirmed, and

WHEREAS: The Church recognizes the continuing need for full, positive, and factual sex education opportunities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United

Methodist Church supports human sexuality education in Iowa schools which would include an emphasis on responsible decision-making and abstinence.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9334. Voice of Youth (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: Youth are open-minded to the ideas of others and are capable of making decisions for themselves, and

WHEREAS: Youth do think for themselves;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the youth, as full members of The United Methodist Church, are a vital part of the church of today and their word will be trusted and regarded as would the words of any other members or group of The United Methodist Church.

REVIEW BY: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

9335. Welcoming Strangers (2007)

WHEREAS: Fear tactics are being used in Iowa communities to create division and hostility toward the immigrants residing there, and

WHEREAS: We are mandated by scripture to welcome the stranger who lives among us (Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:40 and many other texts), and

WHEREAS: These newcomers bring many gifts that are needed by our Iowa communities, including but not limited to helping declining school enrollments, providing a workforce for economic development, helping the local economy by shopping locally, and slowing the decline in the populations of our communities and our churches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls on all Iowa United Methodist churches to 1) study and train themselves to be advocates for immigrants in their communities and with their legislators; 2) create and support local ministries with immigrants such as Bible Studies, English as Second Language and citizenship classes; and 3) work with existing ministries such as Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors immigration clinic sites;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports state policies and laws which 1) treat immigrants with dignity and respect; 2) give immigrants the opportunity for a fair hearing; 3) provide for guest workers to receive fair wages, treatment and protection of the law; and 4) protect individuals and organizations acting as good Samaritans.

REVIEW BY: Board of Global Ministries, Standing Committee on Hispanic Ministries, Board of Church and Society, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Conference Chapter

9336. Gun Show Loophole (2003)

WHEREAS: A loophole in federal law allows firearm transfers between unlicensed individuals without a background check or record of sales (secondary sales), and 30-40% of firearm sales are estimated to take place at secondary markets, and

WHEREAS: The majority of secondary sales occur at gun shows, allowing persons in prohibited categories to purchase guns without a background check or record of sale;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges the Iowa

General Assembly to support the following requirements:

- a) that firearm sales between unlicensed individuals at gun shows be conducted through a federally licensed gun dealer to meet all federal and state laws, i.e., background check and sale recorded on federal form 4473;
- b) that the gun show promoter shall provide one or more federally-licensed gun dealers to conduct said background checks on the premises;
- c) that these requirements shall apply to any part of the transaction taking place at a gun show. (It shall be illegal for someone to make an offer to purchase a firearm from an unlicensed individual, then take possession off-site); and
- d) that violators are committing an aggravated misdemeanor.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9337. Reinstate Ban of Assault Weapons (1995, 2005)

WHEREAS: The ban on assault weapons has expired;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon the United States Congress to reinstate the ban on the sale of assault weapons and not to weaken or overturn the Brady Gun Control Law.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9338. Immigration Reform (2014)

WHEREAS: Throughout Scripture the people of God are called to love sojourners in our midst, treating them "as the citizen among you" and loving them as we do ourselves (Leviticus 19:33-34), and

WHEREAS: The UMC "affirms the worth, dignity, and rights of every person regardless of their nationality or legal status,"¹ and

WHEREAS: Families in Iowa are being torn apart as parents are deported leaving children with struggling single parents or in foster care, and

WHEREAS: Iowa research² shows that immigrants offer valuable contributions to the Iowa economy through their labor, entrepreneurship, buying power, and

WHEREAS: A growing consensus finds it imperative to make our U.S. immigration system more responsive to the economic demands, social realities and security concerns of all;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges its members to pray for all whose lives are affected by unjust immigration laws, including enforcers; to practice holy conferencing in local communities;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon the President and Congress to reform immigration laws to meet the humanitarian, economic and demographic realities of Iowans; to recognize the right of peoples to migrate to preserve their life; to allow America to realistically police its borders and include a process for immigrants who are present in Iowa to earn citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria, but not before those who make legal application; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon the President to stop deportations of anyone except convicted felons until these changes are made.

¹Welcoming the Migrant to the United States adopted by the 2008 General Conference of the UMC,

²Beth Pearson and Michael F. Sheehan, "Undocumented Immigrants in Iowa" Iowa Policy

Project, Mt Vernon Iowa, October 2007 pp.30-31 - cited in "Assessing the Economic Impact of Immigration at the State and Local Level, Immigration Policy Project, April 13, 2010.

9339. Combating Racism and Sexism (2014)

WHEREAS: Racism defined as prejudice plus power, which means that all of us who are white are part of, and inseparable from a society that continually and systematically subordinates people of color, remains a serious problem in Iowa and across our nation, and

WHEREAS: The end of de jure (legalized) racism has failed to bring about the end of de facto (actual) racism, and, in fact has made racism more elusive and more difficult to combat, and

WHEREAS: Racism is still a serious problem as evidenced by differences in opportunity and achievement between white people and people of color in such areas as housing, education, employment, wages and other areas, and

WHEREAS: Sexism is still a serious problem in Iowa and across our nation as evidenced by differences in opportunity and achievement between men and women in such areas as employment, wages, and health care, and

WHEREAS: Sexism has led to legislation and public policy that is detrimental to and threatens the lives and well-being of women;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the churches of the Iowa Annual Conference take the call to repent of racism and sexism seriously by holding quadrennial seminars or workshops on Racism and Sexism in which all pastors and District and Conference staff are required, and church members are strongly encouraged to participate.

9340. Response to General Conference Inaction (2014)

WHEREAS: The 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church has retained language in *The Book of Discipline* which continues to discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) persons, and

WHEREAS: We believe that LGBT persons should be entitled equally to all of the ministries of The United Methodist Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference affirms its commitment to the ecclesiastical rights of all persons and declares its opposition to continued distinctions of church law that restrict ministries to LGBT persons;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference acknowledges that clergy and congregations encountering institutional discrimination may feel bound by conscience to offer the ministries of the church to all persons on an equal basis;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference encourages its leadership to find alternatives to church trials – such as mediation, reconciliation, and administrative remedies – when responding to pastors who perform same sex marriages or affirm LGBT identity;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference recognizes that the pursuit of disciplinary action against any person providing equal access to the sacraments or rituals of the church may cause harm to LGBT persons, their sisters and brothers in Christ, faithful clergy, the church itself, and all members of the family of God; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: As all clergy of the United Methodist Church have

voluntarily covenanted to place themselves under the Discipline of the United Methodist Church, no part of this motion shall be interpreted as permission or encouragement to violate the *Discipline*.

9341. Support for Connectional Table Third Way Resolution (2015)

WHEREAS: The Connectional Table of the United Methodist church has made public a new resolution that will be presented to the 2016 General Conference (web links: Connectional Table: Preparing for 2016 General Conference – The United Methodist Church or <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/preparing-for-2016-general-conference>), and

WHEREAS: This change ends Church trials over homosexuality, and it retains the authority of the annual conference to discern suitability for ordination, and

WHEREAS: Bishops retain authority for appointments, and

WHEREAS: Clergy and local churches will continue to have the right of consultation in appointment making processes, and

WHEREAS: Clergy will determine whom to marry to whom;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference supports and affirms the recommendations from the Connectional Table of the United Methodist Church regarding disciplinary paragraphs 161.B, 161.F, 304.3, 310.2d, 341.6 and 2702.

9342. Mental Illness (2017)

WHEREAS: Christ's ministry of healing continues through the Church, and the Bible states "Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it." 1 John 3:18 (CEV), and

WHEREAS: The Book of Discipline affirms our responsibility to be in ministry with and advocate for persons suffering from mental illness and their families (Par.162.X), and

WHEREAS: According to a 2016 statement from NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), Iowa consistently ranks at the bottom of all states for mental health programs and services¹, and

WHEREAS: The churches of the Iowa Conference need greater awareness of those suffering as mental health consumers and families, and

WHEREAS: The shortage of services, especially in rural areas, means clergy must be equipped to detect signs of mental illness and trained in how to be supportive of persons and their families who live with mental illness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we encourage the Conference Board of Church and Society and the Legislative Advocacy Team to lead us in advocating with state government leaders for increased funds for services, institutes, and residency programs focused on psychiatric services;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we encourage the bishop form a task force to explore ways for the Iowa conference to support increased inpatient beds, in particular community-based programs and trained psychiatrists in Iowa;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: Be it further resolved, that we encourage the conference to work with NAMI and others for education and training regarding mental health care, mental health first aid, advocacy and welcome.

Submitted by: Monique Shore, Grinnell; Grinnell UMC; Walnut Hills UMC; Ankeny First UMC and Women at the Well Inside Council

¹<http://wqad.com/2016/06/15/new-study-puts-iowa-49th-in-nation-for-mental-health-services/>

9343. Firearms and Child Safety (2019)

WHEREAS: United Methodists value children as gifts from God and believe “they are beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations” including education and protection,¹ and

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church advocates for “United Methodists who own guns as hunters and collectors to safely and securely store their guns”² and that there should be a “minimum age of 21 for a gun purchase or possession,”³ and

WHEREAS: One in three children live in homes with guns, and the majority of children who die from unintentional shootings have handled loaded guns unsupervised. In addition, one in three handguns are kept loaded and unlocked, and most children know the location,⁴ and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Department of Human Services proposed guidelines in December 2017 based on “Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards”⁵ concerning child access, parental notifications, and safe storage of weapons/firearms in childcare facilities and homes; and these were not approved or enacted;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls on its members who own firearms to store them separately from ammunition in a locked location unknown and inaccessible to children;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports advocacy by its members and Legislative Advocacy Team for the safety and well-being of children in childcare that ensures that children cannot access weapons, that firearms and ammunition are locked and stored away separately, and that parents are advised of any weapons on the premises.

¹ Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, ¶162.C. The Social Community. The Rights of Children, *Book of Discipline*

² Resolution #3428 – 3, Our Call to End Gun Violence, The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church

³ Resolution #3428 – 8, Our Call to End Gun Violence, The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church

⁴ Gun Violence: Facts and Statistics, Children’s Hospital Research Institute, Center for Injury Research and Prevention (<https://injury.research.chop.edu/violence-prevention-initiative/types-violence-involving-youth/gun-violence/gun-violence-facts-and#.XFSPzPFyM9>)

⁵ The National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Educational Programs, Third Edition

Submitted by: Rita Carter

9344. Children’s Mental Health (2019)

WHEREAS: An Iowa Annual Conference task force was formed by Bishop Laurie Haller under Action Item # 322 (2017) to advocate for more mental health beds and improved services, and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles (162.C) states “children are now acknowledged to be full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligation. . . and affirms rights of children including the right of emotional well-being. . .”, and

WHEREAS: 2016 General Conference Resolution 3303 Ministries in Mental Illness calls “United Methodists with advocacy responsibility to: e. support adequate public funding to enable mental-health care systems to provide appropriate therapy”, and

WHEREAS: 80,000 children in Iowa have a diagnosed Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)¹ and one in five children ages 13-18 have or will have a serious mental illness², and

WHEREAS: In 2017 thirty-nine teens completed suicide. This number is the highest since 2000³;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference affirms the establishment of a Children’s Behavioral Health System by the State of Iowa as passed in 2019 Legislation House File 690 and urges the state legislature, Iowa Department of Human Resources and Mental Health and Disability Services Regions to fully fund this program and subsequent programs⁴;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: We encourage lawmakers, insurers and providers to implement and expand this program as part an integrated, whole person approach to ensuring all Iowa children have a healthy and successful start to life.

1 <https://www.iowaaces360.org/uploads/1/0/9/2/10925571/cmh.2019.pdf>

2 National Alliance on Mental Illness—Iowa (2018, December 27). Mental Health Facts: Children and Teens. From www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/infographics/Children-MH-Facts-NAMI.pdf

3 Shelby Fleig, Des Moines Register Published 12:58 p.m. CT Oct. 29, 2018 | Updated 6:04 p.m. CT Oct. 29, 2018

4 Fiscal Note of the Legislative Services Agency for HF690 Behavioral Health System, Children. March 18, 2019. This note estimated this program would cost the state of Iowa \$1.3 million in 2021.3.

Submitted by: Mental Health Task Force (Brian Carter)

9345. Permanent Status for DACA and TPS Immigrants (2019)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference supports immigration reform, including “a process for immigrants who are present in Iowa to earn citizenship”¹; and the General Conference of The UMC supports the Federal DREAM Act for undocumented youth who have come to the United States as children granting them “deferred action” on deportation as well as educational and military service opportunities², and

WHEREAS: Immigrants from certain countries who have Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are living under threat of denial of TPS status extension so that they will lose the ability to work legally in the U.S. and risk deportation back to home countries with disease, starvation, violence, and other life-threatening conditions, and

WHEREAS: There have been 5,454 Iowans who have applied for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program since its introduction in 2012³, and Iowa has TPS recipients, mainly from El Salvador and Honduras, who have contributed to their communities and local economies for nearly 20 years, and

WHEREAS: The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019⁴, which would allow DACA and TPS recipients a process to obtain permanent legal status, has been introduced in the House and co-sponsored by three of Iowa’s four Representatives; and the bi-partisan DREAM Act of 2019⁵ has been introduced in the Senate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon Iowa United Methodists to actively support immigrants in their communities, educate others about the importance of immigrants, and work for the passage of legislation that helps immigrants achieve permanent status.

2 The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016, #3164 DREAM Act, Adopted 2012

3 Data from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

4 Legislation (H.R. 6) introduced in the U.S. House by Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) on March 12, 2019

5 Legislation (S. 874) introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) and Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) on March 26, 2019

Submitted by: Rita Carter

400 ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

9401. Collective Bargaining in the State of Iowa (2005)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church supports the "right of public and private (including farm, government, institutional and domestic) employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining...", and

WHEREAS: Employees should have the freedom to choose their bargaining agents, as many Iowa employees still lack the benefits achieved from collective bargaining, and

WHEREAS: Private employers, including church-related institutions, have a moral and legal responsibility to obey the letter and spirit of the law regarding the collective bargaining right of employees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls on its institutions and its general membership actively to support the Social Principles statement on the right of employees to bargain collectively;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That members of the Iowa Annual Conference shall support Iowa workers who strive to participate in the collective bargaining process.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9402. Striker Replacement Legislation (1995, 2005)

WHEREAS: The concern for dignity of workers and the right of employees to act collectively is stated in the Social Principles, and

WHEREAS: A number of employers have responded to work stoppages by hiring persons to replace permanently the striking workers, and

WHEREAS: This practice is a direct threat to the collective bargaining process, causing hardship in families and entire communities where employees have been fired from their jobs for engaging in collective bargaining;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls on its institutions and members to:

1. Support labor and management who engage in collective bargaining to reach acceptable agreements in their working relationship;
2. Urge all parties to commit themselves to nonviolent negotiated settlements;
3. Call for an end to recriminations against workers who participate in strikes; and
4. Support state and federal legislation and sanctions to effectively prohibit, in law and in practice, the permanent replacement of striking workers.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9403. Comparable Worth (1984, 2001)

WHEREAS: Comparable worth programs equalize wages and salaries based on necessary job skills, education level required, additional training and experience needed, working

conditions, and social or organizational job value, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa state General Assembly has passed legislation supporting and implementing comparable worth in Iowa for state employees, and

WHEREAS: The elimination of wage discrimination on the basis of gender would promote equity for all employees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports comparable worth legislation in this state and encourages other states, private industry and church institutions in further research and application of comparable worth legislation and programs.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9404. Gambling in Iowa (1993, 2003)

WHEREAS: Gambling is a means of seeking material gain only by chance and at the neighbor's expense, and too often is funded by using monies that are needed elsewhere, and is a menace to personal character and social morality, and

WHEREAS: Organized and commercial gambling is a threat to business, leads to an increase in crime and poverty and is destructive to the interests of good government, and

WHEREAS: Dependence on gambling revenue has led many states to encourage and exploit the weakness of their own citizens, neglect the development of more equitable forms of taxation and thereby further erode citizens' confidence in government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges members of the Iowa General Assembly and Boards of County Supervisors to resist further attempts to expand any gambling activities and utilize any opportunity to reduce or eliminate legalized gambling in Iowa;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges the Iowa General Assembly and Boards of County Supervisors to require all gambling advertisements in Iowa to disclose the odds conspicuously.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9405. Gambling Not to be Used for Fund Raising (1993, 2007)

WHEREAS: Gambling has reached a morally dangerous level in Iowa, encouraging a false hope and fostering addictions, crime and other unhealthy excesses in society and individuals, and

WHEREAS: The Church has a responsibility to refrain from encouraging unhealthy practices and damaging social customs, and a key role in nurturing a wholesome and responsible moral climate within the community, and

WHEREAS: Gambling establishments have non-profit organizations that distribute grants to communities and organizations, and Iowa provides a direct annual allocation from gambling revenues to Community Foundations located in counties without a gambling establishment, while Foundations in a county with a gambling establishment can seek funding from such an establishment, and

WHEREAS: In 2007 Iowa passed a law allowing card game tournaments sponsored by non-profit organizations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference, churches, groups and individuals abstain from the use of lotteries, raffles, card game tournaments and other forms of gambling to raise revenues and witness to the community by developing other forms of funding which do not depend on gambling;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Conference, its churches and institutions not knowingly accept money from any gambling sources;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: From the date of the passage of this resolution, if it is found that an Iowa Conference church has applied or accepted a grant from a gambling establishment or Community Foundation, that the Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference may encourage that church to rescind their application or return the grant.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9406. Support for Low Income Housing (1995, 2017)

WHEREAS: According to the Administration for Children and Families, more than 7,000 children under age 6 are experiencing homelessness in Iowa in 2016, and

WHEREAS: Homelessness during infancy and toddlerhood has been linked to late childhood development and early school failure according to the Journal of the Society For Social Work Research (2013), and

WHEREAS: In its November 2016 publication, the Department of Housing and Urban Development reported the number of homeless in Iowa decreased only by 0.6% from 2013-2016, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Policy Project reported in 2014 there were about 171,000 single-parent families in Iowa and a majority of them pay over 50% of their income for housing costs (when HUD guidelines recommend 30% of income);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports government legislation and funding for:

1. Construction of new low-income housing;
2. Rehabilitation of decaying low-income housing;
3. Protecting renters from sources of income discrimination, i.e., persons relying on lawful housing subsidies or lawful income supports to help pay the rent;
4. Adding a check-box option to Iowa Income Tax 1040 form, giving individuals the opportunity to contribute to homeless service in their region; and
5. Replacement of Section 8 housing going to full market rent;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference will communicate this resolution annually to the Governor, the Iowa General Assembly and Iowa's Congressional Delegation;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: We encourage individual churches to participate in an annual emphasis on Homelessness using the resources from organizations like the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9407. Welfare (1981, 2015)

WHEREAS: Concern for the welfare of the poor is deeply rooted within the prophetic tradition and the New Testament message;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls for social welfare programs and reforms which would:

1. Respect the dignity and integrity of all persons;
2. Contribute to the strengthening of family life;
3. Affirm the responsibility of the human community to assure that all its members have the basic necessities of life (affordable housing, food, clothing, health care and utilities);
4. Provide the opportunity for Iowans to earn a living wage;
5. Provide useful employment and job training for all who are able to work;
6. Encourage recipients to participate in creation of the programs and provide them with grievance procedures when they feel their needs do not receive proper attention;
7. Help persons move from dependence to independence whenever possible by ensuring their access to affordable child care, transportation, educational opportunities and programs to acquire assets, such as IDA (Individual Development Accounts), micro enterprise loans and low interest home purchase loans, with assurance of adequate funding for these programs;
8. Be administered adequately, responsibly, uniformly and compassionately; and
9. Provide for low and/or no cost legal advice to low-income persons such as currently provided by Legal Services;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That this resolution be communicated annually to Iowa's elected officials at the state and national level.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9408. Local Food Systems (2003)

WHEREAS: Iowa is a world leader in agricultural production and Iowa's communities are dependent on a healthy agricultural economy, and

WHEREAS: Iowa continues to decrease its number of acres in horticultural crops and increase its dependence on the importation of fruits and vegetables;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. Encourage support for and participation in Community Supported Agricultures (CSA) which promotes direct farmer to consumer marketing;
2. Encourage local churches to purchase communion juice from Iowa grape growers;
3. Encourage public policies which promote environmentally sound and economically viable farming practices; and
4. Encourage local churches to help build public awareness and understanding of local food systems and their implications for Iowa's economy, communities and natural environment.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9409. Youth Awareness of Hunger/Poverty (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: We are called as Christians to minister to the needs of the hungry and poor among us, and

WHEREAS: There is hunger and poverty in our communities, state, nation, and world, and

WHEREAS: Youth are members of the laity of the church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Encourage youth to respond to requests for material and labor resources and participate in activities that help in eliminating hunger and poverty;
2. Encourage youth to claim the Thanksgiving In-Gathering as a way to support mission

- activities by collecting items for the kits, volunteering to work on-site and be visible in worship; and
3. Encourage youth, when gathered at the local church, district, or Conference level to promote mission activities and report and share with each other;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we encourage youth to participate in work trips (e.g. Appalachia Service Project or Mountain T.O.P.), Volunteer-In-Mission (VIM) projects, United Methodist, and other community-based projects (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, food cupboards/kitchens).

REVIEW BY: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

9410. A Tithing Church (1995, 2001)

WHEREAS: The principle of the tithe is set forth some 500-600 years before the Mosaic Law in the exchange between Abram and Melchizedek, Genesis 14:18-19; was affirmed by Jesus, Luke 11:42; and the Apostle Paul taught proportional giving, 1 Corinthians 16:2, and

WHEREAS: There is blessing for the individual and the church when Biblical principles are taught and practiced, and

WHEREAS: Tithing has been the Christian minimum standard of giving for many years, and

WHEREAS: The General Conference of the United Methodist Church resolved in 1988 that we will be a tithing church, and

WHEREAS: Our response to God is not measured by legalism, but by the joy of giving back to God;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will actively promote the principle of the tithe as an integral part of Christian financial stewardship programs. That the practice of tithing be lifted up to each congregation from the pulpit and through other channels of parish communication, and that the conference Board of Discipleship be encouraged to continue to strengthen their efforts to teach the spiritual blessings of tithing. That the concept of proportional giving be stressed, with emphasis on continued growth. That all be encouraged to grow in discipleship and giving, whether they are currently at 10%, less than 10% or more than 10% of their income.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9411. Support of the DREAM Act (2005, 2017)

WHEREAS: Tens of thousands of America's brightest high school graduates have grown up in the U.S. and have succeeded academically, but are prevented from pursuing a college education because they were brought to this country as young children and have lived here almost their entire lives, yet do not have adequate immigration papers, and

WHEREAS: It is un-Christian to punish children for their parent's actions, and

WHEREAS: Iowa's success is dependent on a strong and educated labor force, and

WHEREAS: The U. S. Congress has considered bills known as the DREAM Act and the Student Adjustment Act. The Iowa State Legislature has considered bills which would permit undocumented students who successfully graduated from a public or accredited non-public high school or received the equivalent high school diploma in the state to attend public colleges and universities, paying in-state tuition, and

WHEREAS: Our church seeks to practice a ministry of hospitality following Biblical

scriptures which admonish us to “love the foreigner...” (Deuteronomy 10:19); remembering Christ’s words when he said, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” (Matt. 25:35);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Iowa Annual Conference supports these DREAM Acts and other legislative acts which would permit undocumented immigrant students who have successfully graduated from a public or accredited non-public high school or received the equivalent high school diploma in the state to attend public colleges and universities paying in-state tuition; and
2. Local churches, our Conference Advocates, and church members are hereby encouraged to support these efforts by communicating with their respective legislators.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9412. Support for an Increase in Family Investment Program (FIP) (2015, 2017)

WHEREAS: Our Social Principles state that “we claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God no less than other facets of the created order”¹; and

WHEREAS: The Book of Resolutions states 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. . . As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as adequate income maintenance. . .”², and

WHEREAS: In 1996 the Federal Government overhauled the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and replaced it with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and

WHEREAS: In Iowa, the TANF program is the Family Investment Program (FIP), and

WHEREAS: FIP payments have not been increased since 1989 (28 years), and

WHEREAS: The Consumer Price Index has increased 28% (more than double) from 1989 to 2017³, and

WHEREAS: A family of three enrolled in FIP receives \$426 per month if they receive the full amount, but in reality, the average payment is \$351 due to wages earned through work⁴, and

WHEREAS: Increasing the monthly FIP payment by 20% would cost approximately 9.7 million⁵;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa United Methodists work with legislators to support a 20% increase in FIP payments.

Reviewed by: Board of Church and Society

¹2016 The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, page 409 ¶163 IV The Economic Community

²2016 The Book of Resolutions, page 411 E) Poverty

³U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflationconsumer-price-index-and-annual-percent-changes=from-1913-to2017/>

⁴Iowa Department of Human Services, November 13, 2014 letter to Lana Ross

⁵Ibid

9413. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (2015)

WHEREAS: Our Social Principles state that “we claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God”¹, and

WHEREAS: The Book of Resolutions states that “as people of faith and religious commitment, we are called to stand with and seek justice for people who are poor;” ... and “that we must continue to advocate for policies that... provide sufficient federal and state funding”², and

WHEREAS: The EITC lifts more Americans out of poverty than any other program. In 2010 alone, the EITC lifted 6.25 million people out of poverty, and it generates large decreases in poverty and substantial increases in employment, as well as decreasing the number of single parents receiving cash welfare³, and

WHEREAS: EITC households tend to spend their credits quickly and locally, which strengthens the local economy, and it is estimated that the EITC generates at least \$1.50 - \$2.00 in local economic activity for every \$1.00 claimed³, and

WHEREAS: More than 250,000 working adult lowans and more than 266,000 children would benefit from an increase in EITC⁴;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference and its members advocate for continued increases in Iowa’s EITC.

¹Social Principles, Par. 163.IV, “The Economic Community,” Introduction

²2012 Book of Resolutions, page 588, #4091, ¶1 and page 588, ¶3 and #2

³RESULTS Website:

http://www.results.org/issues/us_poverty_campaigns/economic_opportunity_for_all/earned_income_tax_credit/

⁴Iowa Fiscal Partnership: A Hand Up to Working Families. Local Economy, February 17, 2012

500 POLITICAL COMMUNITY

9502. Support of the DREAM Act (2005) - This resolution was renumbered to 9411 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9503. Issuance of Drivers Licenses (2005) - This resolution was renumbered to 9332 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9504. Adequate Funding for Public Schools (1983, 2003)

WHEREAS: Continuation of adequate levels of instruction in public schools, costs more each year due to inflation and rising costs, and

WHEREAS: The deterioration of buildings and equipment in public schools makes it more difficult to provide an educational environment that is most conducive to learning, and

WHEREAS: There is still much need for progress in moving Iowa public schools into the electronic age, and

WHEREAS: Historically, Iowa has been a leader in providing quality public education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we support legislation continuing state government financing of public education at a level commensurate with the increased cost of quality education. We also favor initiatives to reduce class size and increase teacher pay;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we favor direct support at the state level for school infrastructure repair;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That such funding should come from general funds, and not from the uncertain source of dedicated gambling revenue.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9505. Student Free Press (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Legislature passed the Student Free Press Act of 1989 which states "that all school districts shall maintain a written policy of student free press";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference affirms the free press rights of youth and strongly encourages all Iowa school districts to adopt and/or maintain a student free press policy.

REVIEW BY: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

9506. Student Rights (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed the freedom of speech through expression, and

WHEREAS: The General Conference of The United Methodist Church has already supported the first amendment rights of freedom of speech and expression in the Social Principles ¶164 V.A, and

WHEREAS: Some school districts, boards, and other leadership have denied these rights to some students by banning items such as religious hats, shirts, stickers, and other items;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference

1. Encourage students to be active in their local school district's establishment of rules and regulations concerning free speech and expression; and
2. Discourage bans on any items containing religious sentiment as long as those sentiments do not disparage the beliefs of others.

REVIEW BY: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

9507. Supporting Sexuality Education in Schools (1997, 2003) - This resolution was renumbered to 9333 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories.

9508. Iowa Corrections (1992, 2003)

WHEREAS: There is need for correctional institutions which provide adequate facilities, staff and programs, and

WHEREAS: Prisoners are children of God having sacred worth and Christ instructed us to visit those who are in prison;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Supports community-based facilities, halfway houses and other measures that diminish alienation between prisoners and society, thus facilitating re-entry upon release from prison;
2. Supports alternatives to imprisonment when feasible, such as fines, restitution, community service, mediation, probation, and restorative justice programs;

3. Supports management of facilities in keeping with federal and state laws, and investigation of any alleged violation of laws or Department of Corrections policy;
4. Supports the provisions to all prisoners of adequate food, health care, safe conditions, protection from physical and mental abuse, access to religious services and materials, drug/alcohol rehabilitation and education programs, legal counsel, visitation, educational activities, recreation and vocational training;
5. Supports housing for youthful offenders and those charged with minor crimes separate from housing for repeat offenders or those charged with serious offenses; and
6. Encourages our members through ministries of love and support to help share the burden of prisoners, offenders, ex-offenders, victims, and the families involved.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9510. Reinstate Ban of Assault Weapons (1995, 2005) - This resolution was renumbered to 9337 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9511. Gun Show Loophole (2003) - This resolution was renumbered to 9336 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9512. Taxation of Institutional Churches (1988, 2003)

WHEREAS: It has long been regarded as an appropriate function of government to encourage institutional churches by exempting them from the payment of property taxes because institutional churches, as clear manifestations of the body of Christ, greatly contribute to the moral climate and well-being of society as a whole;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges the Iowa General Assembly to resist any efforts on the part of legally constituted taxing bodies to expand their property taxing authority to include institutional churches.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9513. Welcoming Strangers (2007) - This resolution was renumbered to 9335 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9514. Federal Budget Priorities (2007, 2017)

WHEREAS: In Iowa, there are 23,000 children without health insurance;¹ in 2014 109,000 Iowa children were living in poverty²; 158,000 children have parents who lack secure employment³, and

WHEREAS: Each year \$13 billion, of the military budget is spent by the Pentagon on untested and unneeded weapons systems⁴; and

WHEREAS: Military advisors, including retired admirals and generals, Republican and Democrat, assert that this wasteful spending could be cut without hurting our national security, and

WHEREAS: Iowa's share of this \$13 billion could be better used for health, education, energy and job training programs in Iowa;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That local Iowa churches educate their congregations about federal budget priorities and inequities; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa United Methodists be encouraged to contact legislators to support redirecting \$13 billion of the Pentagon's discretionary budget toward

health, education, energy, job training and repayment of the national debt.

- (1) (2) (3) Child and Family Policy Center: 2016 Kids Count Data
 (4) Sen. John McCain, in "The Hill", 12/19/16

REVIEW BY: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Conference Chapter

9515. Voter-owned Elections in Iowa (2007)

WHEREAS: The *Book of Discipline* declares that "we hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections (Paragraph 164 A, p.118f, *The Book of Discipline 2004*), and

WHEREAS: The influence of special interest money in Iowa politics is well documented, and

WHEREAS: Challengers now need to raise an average of \$100,000 to compete for the Iowa Senate and \$65,000 for the Iowa House, and

WHEREAS: It is also well documented that "money talks" and results in legislation not in the general public interest;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urge members of the Iowa General Assembly to legislate full publicly funded elections that allow citizens to run financially competitive campaigns based solely on their character, ideas and experience, rather than their wealth or ability to raise large sums.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9516. Support for the Voting Rights of Ex-Felons (2011)

WHEREAS: The goal should be to help offenders become more responsible, productive citizens, and

WHEREAS: Part of being a responsible citizen is participating in the election process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church supports actively helping ex-felons through the process of restoring their right to vote.

REVIEWED BY: Board of Church and Society

9517. Tobacco (2007, 2017)

WHEREAS: 20.4 % of adults in Iowa smoke and 18.1% of Iowa high school students smoke (https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/state_data/state_highlights/2012/states/iowa/index.htmCDC, 2011), and

WHEREAS: Iowa health care costs due to tobacco usage is estimated at \$1.28 billion, and,

WHEREAS: In 2002/2003, Iowa's tobacco prevention spending was 32nd nationally, and,

WHEREAS: We affirm the decision by the 2007 Iowa State Legislature to increase the State tobacco tax by \$1.00 per pack;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages legislators to periodically monitor and evaluate the impact of such

increases;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we urge Iowa United Methodists to:

1. Ask their legislators to give the public an account of the amount of funds received and the amount spent on prevention and cessation programs;
2. Ask legislators to consider laws prohibiting sales, advertising and access to tobacco products, vapors and paraphernalia to underage persons; and ask all agencies charged with the enforcement of existing or future laws to use all available resources to do so;
3. Support smoking cessation programs offered affordably to smokers; and
4. Abstain from tobacco products and vapors as a life-affirming response.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9518. Prisoner's Rights (2007)

WHEREAS: The torture of prisoners violates the humanity of both the tortured and the torturer, and

WHEREAS: The United States government has signed the Geneva and other international conventions against torture, and

WHEREAS: The ancient right of *habeas corpus* was established in the *Magna Carta* in 1215, and

WHEREAS: Coerced evidence is by nature suspect and unreliable;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon the United States government to renounce and reject all forms of torture in all circumstances;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The right of *habeas corpus* should be restored so that all prisoners have the right to challenge their detention;
2. The accused should have the right to see all evidence presented against him/her and the right to discovery (although the sources may be withheld if disclosing them threatens national security);
3. Coerced evidence should not be admitted to the proceedings of military commissions;
4. The courts have final authority to interpret both treaties and laws; and
5. Individuals who have tortured or approved torture should be answerable to the courts of the United States, including military courts, and/or international law.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9519. United Nations (1983, 2003)

WHEREAS: Nations are becoming more interdependent in meeting their needs of commerce, resources, economics and international policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference:

1. Reaffirms its support of the United Nations;
2. Calls upon the United States government and the International community to take more seriously the United Nations as a reconciling body and to sacrifice short-term self-interest for longer-term mutual interests with other nations and peoples;
3. Endorses the United Nations annual observance of World Disarmament Day; and
4. Urges the U.S. government to pay its back dues to the United Nations and to keep these up to date.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9520. Reducing Military Spending to Meet Human Needs (2013, 2017)

WHEREAS: The Book of Resolution states that, “Human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities¹...”, and

WHEREAS: Visionaries and spiritual leaders have warned:

1. Military spending is “theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” –Gen. and US President D Eisenhower
2. “A nation that continues to spend more on money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” – Rev. Doc. MLK Jr., and

WHEREAS: Every dollar spent on the military produces fewer jobs than spending the same dollar on education, healthcare, and clean energy² and

WHEREAS: Taxpayers in Iowa are projected to pay \$4.26 billion to the Department of Defense, not including the cost of war³

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference calls on the US Congress and the US president to work together to cut military spending by 20% and redirect those funds into meeting human needs; and calls for churches and members to engage in a study of the impact of US military spending on the health and well-being of Iowa’s children and families.

¹2012 Book of Resolutions: 4052, “Economic Justice for a New Millennium,” D. Military Spending

²National Priorities Project, 2016 Report

³Ibid

Review by: Board of Church & Society

9521. A National Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on Corporate Personhood (2014)

WHEREAS: The 2008 General Conference Book of Resolutions (pg. 699) states that, “Many elected officials continually court moneyed special interests in order to finance their next election campaign. It is time to free electoral politics from this corrupting pressure...”, and

WHEREAS: The 2010 Supreme Court ruling on Citizens’ United allows unlimited contributions from giant corporations to be poured into our national and state elections, and

WHEREAS: According to the 2010 Supreme Court ruling on Citizens’ United, money is equivalent to free speech, and

WHEREAS: Mega U.S. corporations are in a position to dictate the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the news we see, the wars we fight, the jobs we have, and many other areas of our lives, and

WHEREAS: We believe that corporations are not persons and money is not equivalent to free speech (First Amendment) and we see our democracy being challenged;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference and its churches support an amendment to the Constitution that will abolish corporate personhood and that

money is not equivalent to free speech.

9522. Palestine Human Rights (2019, 2021)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church has affirmed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹, which says “No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”, and

WHEREAS: Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military system report being arrested in the middle of the night, typically arrive to interrogation bound, blindfolded, frightened, sleep deprived, and often give confessions after verbal abuse, threats, physical and psychological violence that in some cases amount to torture. Israeli military law provides no right to legal counsel during interrogation; in all or nearly all cases, no parents are present during interrogation², and

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church opposes Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.³, and

WHEREAS: International law prohibits the destruction of Palestinian property, the forcible transfer of civilians and further annexation of Palestinian land.⁴, and

WHEREAS: Legislation was introduced in the United States Congress (H.R. 2590) which declares “US tax dollars are not to be used to violate Palestinian human rights”⁵;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports H.R. 2590;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That members of the Iowa Annual Conference urge their members of Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 2590;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Board of Church and Society convey their support of this resolution passed by the Iowa Annual Conference to the Iowa Congressional Delegation.

¹ 2016 General Conference Book of Resolutions, 6025 “A”

² UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 37 A, B, C, D
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

³ 2016 Book of Resolutions, 6111

⁴ Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49, pg. 185 and Hague Regulation 1907, Article 46
https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/WebART/195-200056>

⁵https://mccollum.house.gov/sites/mccollum.house.gov/files/documents/Final_MCCOLL_005_xml.pdf

Submitted by: DM First (Christine Anders)

9523. George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (2021)

WHEREAS: The vision of “beloved community” includes “removing the power of police oversight and discipline from the police themselves” and that “intense and ongoing systemic and institutional racism is still the greatest barrier in the US to building beloved community,”¹ and

WHEREAS: The murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers on May 25, 2020, was witnessed in person and by video recording, shocking many people in the United States and the world, as an example of systemic racism in policing, and

WHEREAS: The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, passed by US House

3/3/21, increases law enforcement accountability for misconduct and certain policing practices, enhances transparency and data collection, and establishes best practices and training requirements (including officer criminal intent, use of qualified immunity defense, powers and requirements by the Department of Justice, federal/state/local racial profiling and other police policies, and establishes a national registry for police misconduct),² and

WHEREAS: Churches and local communities are called to engage with local and national governments "in speaking out publicly for police accountability regarding racial profiling, misconduct, abuse, and killings;"³

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference urges church members to contact Iowa US Senators, requesting passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: Iowa Annual Conference organizations and members are called to advocate for such state and local policies as are contained in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

¹ 2016 General Conference Book of Resolutions #3378, "Racism and Economic Injustice Against People of Color in the US," The United Methodist Church

² Summary: H.R. 1280 – 117th Congress (2021-2022), George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 (summary authored by Congressional Research Service)

³ 2016 General Conference Book of Resolutions #3379, "Stop Criminalizing Communities of Color in the United States," The United Methodist Church

Submitted by: Rita Carter

600 WORLD COMMUNITY

9601. Nuclear Disarmament (1989, 2005)

WHEREAS: We as Christians care about all people as children of God, and

WHEREAS: Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction that cannot be used without killing innocent civilians, and

WHEREAS: Nuclear weapons continue to kill their victims long after the cessation of hostilities, as evidenced by the cancer deaths among Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors even today, and

WHEREAS: Nuclear winter would likely result even if only 5% of our nuclear stockpile were detonated, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That United Methodists of the Iowa Annual Conference urge the United States toward immediate nuclear disarmament.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9602. Weapons of Mass Destruction and Peace (1981, 2003)

WHEREAS: The United States strives to be a leader among nations in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and

WHEREAS: The United States continues to be among the leading producers and suppliers of weapons to the world and thus limits its ability to demonstrate that peace is a primary objective of our national policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon the

President of the United States, the Secretary of State and Congress to:

1. Negotiate and ratify comprehensive treaties reducing all armaments, particularly nuclear, biological and chemical weapons;
2. Reduce the development, manufacture, transfer, deployment, use and sale of all conventional and strategic weaponry; and
3. Encourage and support efforts by the United Nations and other international agencies to reduce and prevent the international development, proliferation and use of nuclear, chemical, biological or other weapons of mass destruction.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9603. Peace (2002, 2003)

WHEREAS: War against any country would likely result in very high casualties on both sides, generate increased hostility and hatred towards the United States and foster additional terrorist attacks against our country, and

WHEREAS: Jesus commands us: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45), and Paul states, "If your enemy is hungry feed him; if he is thirsty give him drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:20,21), and

WHEREAS: The 2000 *Book of Discipline* states, "We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations." (§164.G) And "We believe war is incompatible with the teaching and example of Christ" (§165.C);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: We urge our country's leaders to direct our time and resources to work with the international community to resolve differences with any country through diplomatic and in a non-violent way means, and in a manner consistent with international law.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9604. Peace Education (1981, 2003)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church continues to grow in our understanding of peace as an essential element for human survival;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the local United Methodist Churches utilize the Board of Church and Society, the Iowa Peace Network and other related resources for their Christian education programs concerning:

1. The problems created by the constant emphasis on and glamorization of violence through toys and media;
2. Military spending and national priorities;
3. Conversion to a peace-oriented economy;
4. United Nations sessions on disarmament;
5. Conflict resolution alternatives; and
6. Military conscription including draft registration.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9605. World Peace (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: We as Christians should be called to leadership in world peace development, and

WHEREAS: Starvation, ethnic elimination, religious persecution, warfare, nuclear proliferation, and tyranny are serious problems throughout the world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference promote peaceful actions to better the world.

REVIEW BY: Conference Council on Youth Ministry

9606. Food Resources as Political Weapons (1980, 2003)

WHEREAS: The United States is a major food producer, and

WHEREAS: We believe that food is a God-given resource, and

WHEREAS: We believe that proper nutrition is a human right;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference discourages the use of food as a political weapon by the United States and all other governments.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9607. United States Non-Intervention (1983, 2005)

WHEREAS: The traditional Christian attitude has been support for people who are hurting in their search for a life of peace and justice, and

WHEREAS: The United States government has supported military dictatorships which have tyrannized and exploited their people for the economic benefit of small ruling classes and foreign investors, and

WHEREAS: The United States government continues to support a number of repressive governments, and

WHEREAS: The United States government has been known to covertly undermine sovereign governments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference go on record as opposing military aid to repressive regimes or covert intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign nations;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That economic aid be directed by our government to legitimate non-governmental agencies toward those who are in real need: the poor, the hurting, the malnourished, the victims of the repressive governments which now receive the aid;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we join interfaith efforts in educating the people in their rights and obligations regarding freedom and justice as human beings and in responding to the biblical mandate to side with the oppressed and oppose oppression;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa United Methodists will communicate this resolution to Iowa's congressional delegation.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9608. United Nations (1983, 2003) - This resolution was renumbered to 9519 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9610. Peace With Justice in the Holy Land (2003, 2005)

WHEREAS: Resolution of the Palestine-Israeli conflict is a major key to a more stable Middle East and therefore to a safer and more secure United States, and

WHEREAS: While we as Christians are called to be concerned and well-informed about the plight of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, news reports from the region are often superficial and incomplete, and

WHEREAS: Leaders from that region have repeatedly asked for help from the U.S. in restarting dialog and working toward peace;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference encourages local churches to study and discuss both the historical background and the present suffering of all involved in the Palestine-Israeli conflict, using materials from the General Boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries, and other recommended sources;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we pray, as congregations and as individuals, for our Palestinian and Israeli brothers and sisters who are caught up in a cycle of increasing violence, repression, and retaliation in the land we call Holy;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference calls upon our elected leaders to:

1. Re-examine and reshape the U.S. role in this conflict; and
2. Continue working for peace talks leading to a lasting, peaceful relationship between Israel and an established Palestinian state, each to be a fully autonomous, free, and democratic nation with secure borders.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9611. Repeal of Embargo Against Cuba (1993, 2005)

WHEREAS: The Cuban people have suffered more than 30 years from the U.S. embargo which includes medicine, food and all other goods of primary necessity, and

WHEREAS: The U.S. policy as defined by the Torrecelli bill tightens the embargo against Cuba by restricting all United States subsidiary trade, and

WHEREAS: This U.S. policy now places sanctions on third nations trading with Cuba, or "assisting" Cuba in any way, including barter agreements, loan guarantees and tariff agreements, and

WHEREAS: This U.S. policy increases suffering of Cuban people in order to bring down the present government, and

WHEREAS: This U.S. policy does not respect the sovereignty of Cuba nor the sovereignty of other nations who choose to trade or enter into other agreements with Cuba, and

WHEREAS: The United Nations overwhelmingly denounced the U.S. embargo against Cuba in November 1992, and

WHEREAS: The embargo not only hurts the Cuban people but Iowa farmers and industries wishing to trade freely and fairly with Cuba;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urges the U.S. government to end the embargo against Cuba and work toward normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference supports the Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravans to Cuba;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa United Methodists communicate this resolution to Iowa's congressional delegation.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9612. United States Policy Toward Central America and the Caribbean (1985, 2005)

WHEREAS: The United States policy toward Central America and the Caribbean nations is one that encourages the exploitation of the people and resources, frequently marked by military intervention to protect our economic interests, and

WHEREAS: This exploitation and military intervention continues today, and

WHEREAS: We affirm the principle of self-determination for the nations of Central America, and

WHEREAS: U.S. policies supporting oppressive governments and directing covert military intervention have been condemned by human rights organizations and religious groups including the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the General Board of Church and Society and the Iowa Annual Conference;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference urges the United States Government to take the following steps to bring peace and justice to the area:

1. Respect the sovereignty of the Central American nations;
2. Support continuing efforts for negotiated settlements of conflicts;
3. Refrain from military intervention;
4. Develop assistance programs to improve the living standards of the majority of the people - the poor, the malnourished; and
5. To close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas) at Ft. Benning, Georgia;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa United Methodists communicate this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State and the Iowa congressional delegation.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9613. ONE (2004, 2017)

WHEREAS: 35 million people worldwide have AIDS, and

WHEREAS: 70% of the world's HIV-infected persons live in sub-Saharan Africa, and

WHEREAS: There are still 1.5 million AIDS-related deaths per year, and

WHEREAS: In 2015, 23 grants totaling \$210,253 were awarded to projects in 15 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America as part of our United Methodist Global Aids Fund, more than 67,000 people have been direct beneficiaries of these projects, including 867 mothers living with HIV who received support services and 218 babies born to HIV-positive mothers who were detected and linked to antiretroviral services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church commits to continue the established partnership with ONE (formerly DATA --Debt, Aids, Trade, Africa);

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will encourage its churches and members to join the ONE campaign and donate to

Advance #982345 in support of our Global Aids Fund. (For aids statistics see: umc-gbcs.org/blog/everyone-affected-by-hiv-bishop-tells-east-africa-aids-summit. For Global Aids Fund info see <http://www.umcmission.org/explore-our-work/global-health/hivumgaf>.)

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9615. Terrorism (1988, 2003)

WHEREAS: Terrorism is violence directed against non-combatants causing untold suffering and death, and

WHEREAS: Terrorist violence has increased and become sanctioned by government and political groups;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the United Methodists of the Iowa Annual Conference abhor and condemn:

1. Acts of aggression when war has not been declared;
2. Acts of war against non-combatants, either by intent or blatant disregard for their safety;
3. Bombings, shootings or other acts of violence in public places;
4. Kidnapping and/or the taking of hostages;
5. All acts of war and violence "in retaliation" for previous acts; and
6. The escalation of violence and terrorism depicted in media programming;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The United Methodists of the Iowa Annual Conference urge the leaders of all nations, and especially of the United States, to make negotiated settlement of disputes the first priority of international relations;
2. Nations, groups or individuals which refuse to take part in negotiations or abide by the terms of agreements, and so turn to terrorism to achieve their ends, be regarded as outlaws; and
3. Persons convicted of terrorism after a fair trial be incarcerated humanely and groups or nations guilty of terrorism be isolated and sanctioned.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9616. Jubilee USA Network (1999, 2017)

WHEREAS: The Jubilee USA Network draws its inspiration from chapter 25 of Leviticus, which describes a Year of Jubilee, every fifty years, wherein social inequalities are rectified: slaves freed, land returned to original owners, and debts canceled, and

WHEREAS: In 2015 Jubilee USA won \$100 million in debt relief for Ebola-impacted West African countries from the International Monetary Fund, and

WHEREAS: In 2016 The Jubilee USA Network helped pass bipartisan Puerto Rico debt crisis legislation through Congress that stops predatory behavior, prioritizes the payment of pensions and social services ahead of debt payments, seeks to reduce child poverty on the island and provides strong bankruptcy tools to return the debt to sustainable levels, and

WHEREAS: The burden of paying the debt often falls on the most impoverished members of debt-ridden countries, exacting a great social and environmental toll;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference affirm all efforts by Congress toward cancellation of debt owed to the US by poor countries;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference endorse the ongoing work of the Jubilee USA Network campaign, calling for:

1. Cancellation of crushing international debt where countries are burdened with high levels of human need and environmental distress;
2. Action to recover resources diverted to corrupt regimes, institutions, and individuals; and
3. Establishment of a process to monitor international monetary flows to prevent recurring destructive cycles of indebtedness.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9617. Landmines (2007, 2017)

WHEREAS: We are called as Christians to be and support peacemakers, and

WHEREAS: Both pacifist and just war Christians agree that the lives of civilians must be protected and indiscriminate killing is never acceptable, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAP) in Middleton, Iowa, in operation since 1941 no longer produces landmines. This gives reason to be thankful and to pray that the IAAP will never produce land mines again;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference calls for a permanent ban on the production, especially at IAAP, and the use of all anti-personnel land-mines;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Conference calls on all elected officials, the President, and members of Congress, to sign and ratify the Treaty to Ban Landmines;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Conference offers solidarity and prayerful support for persons in mine-affected countries whose lives are threatened daily by the scourge of land-mines, and also support for treatment and rehabilitation of victims.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9618. Prisoner's Rights (2007) - This resolution was renumbered to 9518 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9619. Withdrawal from Iraq (2007)

WHEREAS: The United States' preemptive war against Iraq was based on data now known to be mistaken, and violated the Social Creed position that rejects "war as an instrument of national foreign policy" and insists "that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them, (Paragraph 165, C, p. 123f, *Book of Discipline 2004*), and

WHEREAS: The presence of foreign occupying troops is not the will of the majority of Iraqi citizens ⁽¹⁾ and is in violation of the Social principle that affirms that it is "the right and duty of people of all nations to determine their own destiny"⁽²⁾;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference call upon the United State to remove all troops as soon as logistically practical and to relinquish all military bases on Iraqi soil;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference urge the United States to cooperate with the United Nations in rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq and healing the deep wounds inflicted upon the Iraqi citizens.

(1) Program on International Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland, January. 2006

(2) Ibid

REVIEW BY: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Conference Chapter

9620. Enforcement and Reform of Immigration Laws (2008) - This resolution was renumbered to 9331 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9621. Ending Human Trafficking: An Iowa Focus (2013)

WHEREAS: Psalm 82: 3-4 (NRSV) states “Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”, and

WHEREAS: Human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery, is the world’s second largest criminal industry, manifesting as contract slavery, forced labor and sexual trafficking’;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all Iowa United Methodist Churches be encouraged to study “Human Trafficking: Preventing, Protecting, Prosecuting” Resource Packet of United Methodist Women and that pastoral leadership be encouraged to preach on the sin of human trafficking to stimulate spiritual growth and motivate advocacy;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That Iowa United Methodist Churches advocate for full enforcement of House File 2390 signed by Governor Branstad on April 4, 2012³.

Law enforcement shall follow Iowa Code in arresting, charging and punishing individuals engaging in sexual acts with children, in exchange for anything of value, a form of human trafficking according to law, including being listed in Iowa’s Sex Offender Registry;

According to Iowa Code, training in recognition of signs of human trafficking victimization shall be provided to all law enforcement officers. This includes not just new officers, but refers to training for officers who have already undergone their training for employment; ie, training shall be retroactive; and

Juvenile court officers and judges working with child victims of prostitution shall deem such children to be victims of human trafficking, according to Iowa code, and facilitate their access to resources and services necessary to restore their lives.

Review by: United Methodist Women

700 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

9701. Cross at Annual Conference (1999, 2001)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference and The United Methodist Church are part of the body of Christ, and we honor Jesus Christ as our risen Lord and Savior, remembering His sacrificial death for us on the cross;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That during all current and future regular or special sessions of the Iowa Annual Conference, a cross will always be visible and prominent on the platform in the meeting place of the Annual Conference.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9703. Evangelism (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: One of the directives of our Lord was to “strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness,” (Matthew 6:33, NRSV) which led him to preach and heal, and leads us

to a concern for both the social and spiritual needs of our society, and

WHEREAS: There are many highly emotional issues and many valid points of view that divide Iowa United Methodists at local, conference and public levels, and

WHEREAS: An ongoing concern for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been an important and unifying part of our Wesleyan heritage, and

WHEREAS: In a time of profound spiritual hunger and need in our society, many people are turned away by our visible divisions and seek other answers to their spiritual seekings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all persons, boards and agencies responsible for programming in the conference, districts and local churches be encouraged to evaluate their public statements to consider how they:

1. Promote the forgiving, saving message of Jesus Christ; and
2. Promote the unity of believers, being sensitive to those issues that divide.

REVIEW BY: Board of Discipleship

9704. Full Participation of All Persons (1975, 2003)

WHEREAS: We as an Annual Conference have taken steps to insure the participation of women in the church and recommended one-third of the members on our boards and agencies be lay women, and

WHEREAS: The call to serve Christ with all our gifts, time and abilities is made to every human being;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all persons, boards and agencies responsible for programming in the conference, districts and local churches be encouraged to evaluate their programs and take such steps necessary to affirm programs which encourage full personhood for everyone.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9705. Lay Employees' Pension Plan (1990, 2001)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference views Diaconal Ministers, as well as full-time employees of our United Methodist Churches, as dedicated and valued servants of Christ and the Church, and

WHEREAS: Diaconal Ministers and other full-time lay employees are subject to the natural process of aging and to the possibility of catastrophic disabilities, and

WHEREAS: The local and larger church recognizes the value of their services and its responsibilities regarding their welfare, and

WHEREAS: The Internal Revenue Service has directed that if the local church offers a pension plan to any full-time lay employee, it must offer a plan to all full-time lay employees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference take appropriate steps to inform all local churches of the Iowa Annual Conference of this requirement and urge them to offer The Lay Employees' Pension Plan of The United Methodist Church to any Diaconal Minister and other full-time lay personnel employed by them.

REVIEW BY: Board of Ordained Ministry

9706. Modeling John Wesley's Means of Grace (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: Jesus Christ said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." Matthew 28:19 (NKJ), and

WHEREAS: The stated mission of the local church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ, and

WHEREAS: The primary task of the Board of Discipleship is to assist the local church in making disciples for Christ, through Wesley's Means of Grace: prayer, study of scripture, fasting, celebrating the Lord's Supper, Christian conferencing, and acts of mercy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Discipleship consider the Great Commission, the mission of the local church, and Wesley's "Means of Grace," when discerning its response to the culture and/or the church as we place ourselves in partnership with the local church;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we challenge the Iowa Annual Conference boards and agencies to model their ministries after Wesley's Means of Grace.

REVIEW BY: Board of Discipleship

9707. Personnel Policy for Diaconal Ministers and Other Lay Employees in the Local Church (1995, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference has not had personnel policies in place for hiring and nurturing Diaconal, certified and non-certified lay employees in the local churches, and

WHEREAS: There are not procedures in place for a lay employee to follow in case of conflict within the staff and/or termination proceedings begin, and

WHEREAS: Each person in ministry should be treated with Christian love and respect of their personhood;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That our local churches recognize the value of lay employees in the life of the church and that each local church be encouraged to consider the following:

1. Staff Parish Relations Committee write an adequate job description which would include:
 - a. Expectations to be met in fulfillment of position and how to be measured;
 - b. A provision that during the first year of employment there be a quarterly review of work done, goals set and reviewed and thereafter reviewed one or more times each year by the pastor and Staff Parish Relations Committee;
 - c. A process to be followed if there is conflict within the staff; and
 - d. A provision that should the decision be made to terminate the employee, a minimum of a 30-day period shall be given or compensated for; and
2. Staff Parish Relations Committee study "Guidelines for Employment of Diaconal, Certified, and Non-Certified Lay Employees" for additional information provided by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

REVIEW BY: Board of Ordained Ministry

9708. School for Lay Ministry (1997, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference recognizes the role of lay persons in ministry, and

WHEREAS: The School for Lay Ministry provides training for lay persons, and

WHEREAS: The School for Lay Ministry equips laity for shared ministry, and

WHEREAS: A three-year course of study provides and sustains the identification, equipping and enabling of lay persons of the Iowa Annual Conference to serve with other professionals in ministry to the church and to communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference affirms the School for Lay Ministry as a viable and specialized ministry for lay persons and continues its operation in the future for the training and betterment of our laity.

REVIEW BY: Board of Laity

9709. Retention of Native American Ministries (2003)

WHEREAS: We are committed to honor and respect Native American people and the sacred truths revealed by God within the context of native prayers, ceremonies, songs, and languages, and

WHEREAS: We remember our historic commitment to bring Christ to the native people living in the land between the two rivers, and

WHEREAS: We seek to improve relationships between Native American people of Iowa and the peoples in our local communities and United Methodist congregations, and

WHEREAS: We seek to be a Christian witness among the Native American peoples of Iowa and to be present for mutual respect and dialogue;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference asks its delegates to the 2004 General Conference to vote in support of the continuance of Native American Ministries Sunday as a General Advance Special offering;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: We call for the continuance of the Iowa Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries as an imperative for ministry and ask our General Conference delegates to vote for Disciplinary wording to sustain structures for similar leadership in annual conferences throughout the General Church.

REVIEW BY: Committee on Native American Ministries

9710. Peace With Justice (1981, 2007)

WHEREAS: The UMC has designated Peace With Justice Sunday as one of six special church-wide Sundays, and

WHEREAS: Offerings given to Peace With Justice support Iowa ministries, such as Iowa Peace Network, Restorative Justice Ministries and the Iowa Conference Social Witness and Education Ministry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Iowa Annual Conference promote and encourage local congregations to celebrate Peace With Justice Sunday annually and support the Board of Church and Society as it actively works locally and globally toward peace with justice.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society.

9711. Radon Hazards in Iowa (1989, 2017)

WHEREAS: The Iowa State University Extension Service “radon facts” sheet (available at any extension office) estimates that up to 150 lung cancer deaths per year may be linked to the radioactive gas, which occurs naturally in Iowa, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Department of Health, provides a free packet of information on radon measurement and reduction methods, a list of state certified laboratories, technicians and specialists and other pertinent facts, and

WHEREAS: Reasonably priced radon detection kits are readily available in local communities, and

WHEREAS: It is a relatively simple matter to reduce radon hazards in living/working quarters;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference directs the appropriate Boards of Trustees at the conference, district and local church levels to test parsonages, church offices and other spaces where persons are exposed for more than 20 hours per week;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That precaution is made to reduce radon levels in those buildings/spaces where radon is detected above 10 picocuries per liter to a category of less than 4 picocuries per liter;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That all charges report test results, reduction measures implemented and subsequent test results verifying a lowered radon risk to District Superintendents at Charge Conferences with the reports becoming part of permanent files available to pastors, trustee committee members, church workers and others who request the information;

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9713. Voice of Youth (1997, 2003) - This resolution was renumbered to 9334 in 2011 to parallel the General Conference Book of Resolution categories

9715. Car Pooling to United Methodist Meetings (1988, 2001)

WHEREAS: Iowa United Methodists have expressed an ongoing concern for wise stewardship of our natural resources, and

WHEREAS: Carpooling saves both fuel and reduces meeting expenses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That each agency of the Iowa Annual Conference continues to intentionally organize carpooling for its members whenever possible.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

9716. Giving Voice to the Annual Conference and Its Members (2007)

WHEREAS: The *Book of Discipline* is the law of the church, Annual conferences may not legally negate, ignore or violate provisions of the *Discipline* with which they disagree, even when that disagreement is based upon conscientious objection. All actions of an Annual Conference must be faithful and consistent with the *Discipline*; but Annual Conferences are free to express their ideals and opinions within these guidelines¹, and

WHEREAS: Only the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has the authority to speak officially for the Church; each general Church agency may speak only for itself,

and individual members called to testify in Legislative settings to represent the church are permitted only to read the resolutions and positions adopted by the General Conference and the Iowa Annual Conference, and

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church expresses its ideals and opinions through resolutions and advocacy, and through individual Iowa United Methodists who are encouraged to express their ideals and opinions through voice and action;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all Iowa United Methodists are called to affirm those principles and resolutions they find persuasive and to advocate those positions to Legislative Bodies and Administrative Agencies and to the Community at large as permitted by the *Discipline* and Judicial Council;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That this resolution shall be applicable to all of the Social Principles, *General Book of Resolutions* or *Iowa Book of Resolutions*, as if contained within the body of such principles and resolutions.

Ref. 1: Judicial Council Decisions 1044 & 1052; Ref. 2: ¶509 2004 *Book of Discipline*

REVIEW BY: Resolutions Committee

9718. Disapproval of the Traditional Plan (2019)

WHEREAS: “Our Theological Task” (see ¶105, p.80-91) invites and encourages us to continuously engage in faithful and serious reflection on our biblical and theological inheritance and celebrates “The wonder of God’s grace at work with us and among us”, and has led the people called United Methodists to demonstrate nuanced and robust understandings about matters as diverse as divorce and the ordination of women, and in that spirit rejecting literalism that harms or excludes LGBTQ+ persons, and

WHEREAS: Despite no biblical mandate to discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons, The United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQ+ persons for punitive action, while seemingly ignoring biblical teachings on matters such as efforts to secure pensions (Matthew 6:19-20), and

WHEREAS: Our first General Rule (¶104, p.78) concerns “doing no harm”, and

WHEREAS: United Methodists with diverse theological appreciations all earnestly vow “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves” (United Methodist Hymnal, p. 34), and

WHEREAS: ¶613.19 prohibits annual conference funds from being used to “violate the expressed commitment of the UMC ‘not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends’”, and

WHEREAS: By adopting elements of the Traditional Plan, we have done great harm to our LGBTQ+ siblings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: We urge the Iowa Annual Conference (IAC) to express disapproval of the Traditional Plan and apologize for the harm inflicted on LGBTQ+ persons, their families, and the body of Christ. We urge the IAC to “affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,” (¶161.G) and assert that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: In light of our current IAC budget crisis, the IAC should prioritize the full funding of conference missions, new ministry starts, and clergy support before funds or monies shall be expended for background investigations, complaints, just

resolutions, or clergy trials pertaining to LGBTQ+ ordination and marriage.

Submitted by: Rev. Katie Z. Dawson, Clergy; Rev. Alexis Johnson, Clergy; Rev. Matt German, Clergy; Rev. Nate Nims, Clergy; Rev. Scott Keele Kober, Clergy; Rev. Andrea Kraushaar, Clergy; Rev. Kimberly Bowles, Clergy; Rev. Tim Bonney, Clergy; Rev. Scott Meador, Clergy; Rev. Chris St. Clair, Clergy; Rev. Ryan Russell, Clergy; Rev. Wil Ranney, Clergy; Rev. Sean McRoberts, Clergy; Rev. Trevor Vaughn, Clergy; Rev. Eric Schubert, Clergy; Rev. Brian K. Milford, Clergy; Rev. Heecheon Jeon, Clergy; Rev. Lanette Plambeck, Clergy; Rev. Melissa Drake, Clergy; Rev. J. Robert Burkhart, Clergy; Rev. Brody Tubaugh, Clergy; Rev. Melody Carstens, Clergy; Rev. Joyce Webb, Clergy; Rev. Cathy Nutting, Clergy; Rev. Lucas Fillmore, Clergy.

9719. Non-Binary Gender (2021)

WHEREAS: “The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth”^{8F1} and “all people may attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church”^{9F2}, and

WHEREAS: “The membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all people who have been baptized and all people who have professed their faith... 3. For statistical purposes, church membership is equated to the number of people listed on the role of professing members”^{10F3}, and

WHEREAS: Despite the lack of a requirement of a binary gender identity to profess membership in The United Methodist Church, and (regardless of pronouns) the instructions are to, “report for each member the gender with which she or he identifies,” the Iowa Conference statistical tables utilize only binary male or female categories, and

WHEREAS: The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) allows Conferences to add columns to the statistical reports providing a way to add a non-binary gender identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Conference Statistician and the Director of Connectional Ministries will work with GCFA to add a “non-binary” column to the membership gender section of the statistical tables, beginning with the 2021 statistical report.^{11F4}

¹ 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶4

² 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶214

³ 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶215

⁴ This action was successfully passed and implemented in 2018 by the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Submitted by: Rev. Katie Z. Dawson

HOW TO BE A UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

There are four primary options for contacting your state legislators and U.S. congresspersons: e-mail, letter-writing, telephone calls and personal visits. A handwritten letter, a personal e-mail, or a phone call makes a greater impact on legislators than “form” e-mails or postcards. Personalized notes or e-mails let legislators know you are deeply invested in an issue, and it allows them to see a more personal and community-specific perspective on why they should support or oppose a piece of legislation. If your legislator utilizes social media such as Facebook or Twitter for communicating with constituents, this can be another way of both following the work of the legislator and weighing in on particular topics or legislation.

When communicating with your elected officials, identify yourself by name and Iowa address and inform them of the subject about which you wish to speak (bill numbers are helpful but not necessary). Since legislators receive hundreds of communications each week, it is important to be concise and use your own words.

As a constituent, you have a powerful impact on legislators because they are working on behalf of your community, so it is crucial to voice your perspectives and work with others in your congregation and community to contact your state and local elected officials on an ongoing basis. An excellent time to have your voices heard and make a personal connection is to meet with your local and state legislators when they are not in session, participating at local community forums or coffees. You and others from your congregation and community also can work to organize an event such as a panel discussion or gathering where you can dialogue with legislators.

If you are unsure who your Iowa and/or U.S. legislators are, or to obtain their names and contact information, please visit: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>.

NATIONAL ELECTED LEADERS

Addresses / Phone Numbers

<u>Official</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500 <i>“Dear Mr./Madam President...”</i>	202-456-1414 (Switchboard) 202-456-1111 (Public Opinion) 202-456-2461 (Fax)
Vice President	The Vice President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500 <i>“Dear Mr./Madam Vice President...”</i>	202-456-1414

To contact the President and Vice-President electronically, please visit the following:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/whitehouse>

Email: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Senators	The Honorable _____ United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 <i>“Dear Senator...”</i>	202-224-3121
Representatives	The Honorable _____ House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 <i>“Dear Representative...”</i>	202-224-3121

To contact members of the Senate via e-mail please visit the following:
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

There is no list of House of Representatives e-mail addresses. You must contact your representative's website. Generally, if a member has a public e-mail address, it can be found on the member's website. To find your representative visit the following: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>. After you find your representative, click on their name and you will be taken to their website where you will find how to e-mail them.

STATE ELECTED LEADERS

<u>Official</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Governor and Lt. Governor	The Honorable _____ The Governor's Office State House Des Moines, IA 50319 <i>"Dear Governor/Lt. Governor..."</i>	515-281-5211
Senators and Representatives	The Honorable State Capitol Des Moines, Iowa 50319 <i>"Dear Senator/Representative..."</i>	
Senate Switchboard		515-281-3371
House Switchboard		515-281-3221

During the legislative session, the Senate and House telephones are answered by a clerk who will take your name and phone number. Legislators will then return your call. Be sure to follow-up with them if you do not get a response.

For legislator specific contact information please visit :
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>

RESOURCES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

The **Iowa General Assembly's** website offers a plethora of legislative material. Tracking bills, locating legislator contact information and obtaining district maps are just three of the services available. Please visit <http://www.legis.iowa.gov>.

A division within the Iowa General Assembly, the **Legislative Services Agency (LSA)** makes available nonpartisan information and materials concerning the Iowa General Assembly and the legislative process in Iowa to interested persons, including the general public. The LSA also provides *Sessions Daily*, a publication of all legislative actions by both chambers during the previous day while in session. To receive this free publication, visit <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/subscribe/subscriptions> or call 515.281.5129.

For **The United Methodist Church's** positions on social justice and mission issues, please refer to the Social Principles, located in *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. You also can find this information in a separate booklet, which is available from Cokesbury [Cokesbury Social Principles](#). *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016-2020* provides a more comprehensive overview of scriptural, theological, and denominational perspectives on a given issue, along with action recommendations for United Methodists and annual conferences. You can access web additions of the *2016 Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions* on Cokesbury's web site: <https://www.cokesbury.com/9781791008789-The-Book-of-Discipline-The-Book-of-Resolutions-of-The-United-Methodist-Church-2016-2-Pack?refq=book%20of%20resolutions>.

The **Iowa Annual Conference** also produces a *Book of Resolutions* every two years that addresses topics that are specific to Iowa communities. It can be found on the Iowa Annual Conference website: <https://www.iaumc.org/journal>. In the journal listing you will find the most recent version of the Iowa Conference *Book of Resolutions*.

The Conference Connectional Ministries Council (CCMC) includes the ministries of the **Conference Board of Church and Society** and the **Advocacy Team** which provide opportunities for training and educating laity and clergy about local, national, and global issues important to our denomination and for involvement in advocacy during the sessions of the Iowa General Assembly. These ministries are focused on helping United Methodists grow in their discipleship by learning ways in which they can become catalysts for transformation in their congregation and community. United Methodists can get involved and connected with these ministries through state-wide events; local and regional trainings, and through direct requests to the Assistant to the Bishop. The mission of this ministry area is to help Iowa United Methodist live out our doctrinal heritage as described in ¶102 in the *2016 Book of Discipline*: "we insist that personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world. By joining heart and hand, we assert that personal religion, evangelical witness, and Christian social action are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing." Our hope is that this ministry area will empower all Iowa United Methodists to live out our Iowa Annual Conference mission to "**Inspire, equip and connect communities of faith to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ.**"

Iowa Annual Conference Contacts

Rev Dr Lanette Plambeck, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Clergy & Leadership Excellence lanette.plambeck@iaumc.org
P: 515-974-8903

Felicia Coe, Assoc. Dir. And Project Coord. For IAC Session and Conn. Ministries Council felicia.coe@iaumc.org
P: 515-974-8911

Liz Winders, Director of Communications Liz.Winders@iaumc.org
 P: 515-974-8907

Address: Iowa United Methodist Conference Center
 2301 Rittenhouse St.
 Des Moines, IA 50321

IOWA CONFERENCE ACTION ALERT NETWORK

The Iowa Conference Action Alert Network consists of people from around the state who care about social justice and mission issues and feel led to speak to Iowa's state and federal legislators in support of The United Methodist Church's positions. This network is coordinated by the Volunteer Legislative Advocacy Team of the Iowa Annual Conference Board of Church and Society with the administrative support of Felicia Coe, Project Coordinator of the Iowa Annual Conference, and Liz Winder, Director of Communications, and is done in collaboration with the Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck. Its purpose is to enable Iowa United Methodists to (1) know our denomination's General and Annual Conference positions on key legislative and social issues and (2) support and advocate for those positions by direct written, e-mail, social media, and telephone communications to state and federal legislators while these issues are being debated.

The Action Alert Network consists of volunteer clergy and laity who sign up to receive the Action Alerts and to advocate with their own Iowa Representatives and Senators in support of United Methodist Church official positions.

The Action Alerts provide Iowa legislative alerts which the United Methodist Church has declared positions on by either General Conference or Iowa Annual Conference Resolutions and The Social Principles. The Alerts are sent out nearly every every week of the Iowa Legislative Session to all United Methodist clergy and to members of the Action Alert Network. These alerts also contain occasional educational, workshop, and national alerts and information.

'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSION FACEBOOK PAGE The Social Justice and Mission Ministry of the Iowa Annual Conference also has a Facebook page that provides additional resources, educational materials, local church and district listings for events or outreach opportunities in the areas of social justice and mission; as well as direct action opportunities for laity and clergy to get involved in service and justice work in various areas of the state with United Methodist, ecumenical, interfaith, coalition groups, and non-profit organizations. To 'like' the Social Justice & Mission Ministry, either search on Facebook for "Social Justice & Mission—IAUMC" or visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Social-Justice-Mission/226860630677144?sk=wall>

JOINING THE ACTION ALERT NETWORK

Persons who sense God's leading in this vital area of Christian mission and ministry are invited to join the Iowa Conference United Methodist Action Alert Network by completing the registration information form, or by contacting:

Iowa Conference Action Alert Network
 % Liz Winders
 United Methodist Conference Center
 2301 Rittenhouse Street
 Des Moines, IA 50321
 515-974-8911
felicia.coe@iaumc.org

JOINING THE VOLUNTEER LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TEAM

The Legislative Advocacy Team is comprised of 3-10 Iowa United Methodists who relate to the activities of the legislative and executive branches of Iowa government. Persons interested in joining the team may offer their services to the team leader or to the chair of the Board of Church and Society. The board will identify persons to join the team or to fill vacancies on the team and will forward the nominees to the bishop (or the bishop's designee). The Bishop's Office will select the team membership on a yearly basis.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING NOMINATED, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE THREE STEPS:

1. Read about the work of the Iowa United Methodist Legislative Advocates at the State Capitol at <https://www.iaumc.org/advocacy>.
2. Review and consent to these expectations of volunteers:
 - a. Have an understanding of, and an appreciation for, the positions of the UMC found in the UM Social Principles, the UM Book of Resolutions, and the Iowa Conference Book of Resolutions.
 - b. Be willing to register as a lobbyist representing the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
 - c. Be open to serving multiple years to establish relationships at the statehouse.
 - d. Be willing to be present at the statehouse at least once per week during the legislative session.
 - e. Be willing to take initiative to speak with legislators and/or to speak in subcommittee and committee meetings.
 - f. Be willing and able, via internet as well as by other means, to research bills and to explore subjects being presented to the legislature.
 - g. Be consultative with others on the Legislative Advocacy Team.
 - h. Be willing, when available, to speak to church groups about advocacy.
 - i. Be responsive to the leadership and assignments of the team leader who:
 - i. Reviews bills coming to the legislature and determines which ones are addressed by the UMC in the UM Social Principles, the UM Book of Resolutions, and the Iowa Conference Book of Resolutions
 - ii. Determines on which bills the team might make a declaration of support or opposition, and justifies his/her recommendation
 - iii. Consults with team members and assigns bills to individual volunteers to research and/or to follow through the legislative process
3. Apply to the team leader or the chair of the Board of Church and Society by completing the form found by visiting the Iowa Conference website as follows: <https://iaumc-reg.brapp.com/AdvocacyTeamApplication>

Advocacy Team Leader for 2020-21 Rev. Brian Carter briancar@dwx.com
 Chair of Board of Church and Society for 2020-2022 Rev. Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz alejandrosantiz@trinitylasamericas.org

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