

A Resolution on the United Methodist Church Iowa Conference and Mental Illness (NEW)

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/>

9342. Mental Illness (2017) [2017 Book of Resolutions – p. 33 - #9342 Mental Illness (2017)]

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