

Section III: Resolutions

(Correction 6/6/2017)

The following replaces pages 75 – 97 of the 2017 Pre-Conference Manual.

Soil Conservation

ACTION ITEM # 301

9102. Soil Conservation (1990, 2003)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church strongly endorses best practices for soil conservation, conserving measures world wide, knowing that all forms of life on earth is ~~are~~ directly linked to soil fertility, and

WHEREAS: The State of Iowa is ~~often considered~~ one of the richest food producing zones in ~~North America~~ the world because of its soil fertility, ~~and many~~ enabling family farms ~~have to prospered ever since tillage of the native prairies began here,~~ and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service ~~was designated and is charged with the duty of~~ protecting ~~our~~ national's soil resources, and

WHEREAS: The ~~administrative procedures of the~~ 1985 Food Security Act ~~passed by Congress spelled out~~ specifies a soil loss tolerance of rate of no more than five tons per acre of soil lost on up to and including a D slope (12 percent slope) per year on 12 percent (D slopes) or less per year, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference strongly urges the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service ~~not to weaken~~ to maintain these reasonable minimal soil loss limits but rather maintain the standards of no more than five tons per acre soil loss limit per year on up to and including D slopes (12 percent).

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Forests, Wetlands and Prairies in Iowa

ACTION ITEM # 302

9104. Forests, Wetlands and Prairies in Iowa (1985, 2001)

WHEREAS: Iowa's forested land has dwindled from 6.5 million acres in the 1840's when Iowa was settled to over 2.13 million acres in 1990 today (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry>), and

WHEREAS: Tax and financial incentives ~~are already in place to~~ 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~~92~~-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 is to help Iowans to expand and care for Iowa's over 3 million acres of trees and forests..." and, ~~"Iowa Forest Resources Plan, 1985," and in particular,~~ endorses a similar recommendation that marginally productive lands currently under cultivation be reserved for wetlands, prairie ~~and replanted and/or~~ reforested so as to ~~maintain~~attain and/or expand Iowa ~~maintain~~ a forests resource of ~~approximately 3 million acres within the state of Iowa,~~ and recommends that ~~all of this~~ be accomplished by voluntarily through cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, private land owners and environmental groups, ~~stewardship action and cooperation by government and private owners,~~ not by government edicts;

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

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Responsible Consumption of Natural Resources/Earth Day

ACTION ITEM # 303

9106. Responsible Consumption of Natural Resources/Earth Day (1981, 2003)

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

WHEREAS: ~~As Christians we have an obligation~~ We have an obligation as Christians to share some of 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 ~~ethanol~~ 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 ~~10 percent of energy being renewable energy by 2010 and~~ 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 eliminateing unnecessary consumption of resources, including especially energy;
2. Encourages ~~that every effort be made to develop 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 ~~also~~ 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 ~~10 percent of energy being renewable energy by 2010 and~~ 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

Oil Spills Response Support

ACTION ITEM # 304

9107. Oil Spills Response (1989, 2001)

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

WHEREAS: ~~At every point in the~~ This production, distribution and consumption process, the potential for an oil spill is significant, carries significant potential for spillage, and

~~WHEREAS: The effects of spilled petroleum can pose serious damage to our environment such that after more than 10 years, Prince William Sound, Alaska, is still suffering from the impacts of the Exxon Valdez spill, 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 risks at significant risk from oil exploration and drilling;

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

- ~~1. Calls for r~~Responsible conservation of petroleum to decrease risks of lessen the opportunity for damaging oil spills;
- ~~2. Calls for e~~Continued implementation of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 addressing oil spill prevention, cleanup, and liability;
- ~~3. Calls for r~~Rigorous ongoing environmental review of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline ~~before the 2004 renewal of the Pipeline's lease of federal lands;~~ and
- ~~4. Calls on t~~The U.S. Congress to ~~maintain the prohibition of oil production in the exploration in the~~ Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ~~while the~~ as our country solves grows our ability to meet our energy needs through by conservation and other, especially renewable, sources.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Energy Conservation

ACTION ITEM # 305

9109. Energy Conservation (1981, 2003)

WHEREAS: The Church is called to good stewardship and to be a positive example in all ~~things that it does~~; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all church ~~units~~buildings, parsonages ~~or any~~and new additions ~~planned and built in the future~~ shall be designed to ~~conform~~reflect current ~~to~~ energy efficiency standards;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That each congregation and the Board of Trustees of all conference agencies ~~shall~~ 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

Public Transportation Support

ACTION ITEM # 306

9111. Public Transportation (1981, 2003)

Action Item #106

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, ~~and we urge~~
2. Encourage government and business to promote and expand present public transportation systems for persons and goods (including rail transportation) whenever possible; and
3. ~~to d~~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

Global Climate Change

ACTION ITEM # 307

9112. Global Climate Change (2007)

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 ~~irrefutable~~ growing evidence and an increasing scientific consensus indicating that the atmosphere is warming, ~~and~~ 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 ~~future~~ changes in climate extremes ~~are expected to fall~~ disproportionately on the poor, creating ~~an~~ 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 impacts of global climate change;
2. Support energy policy legislation at local, state, and federal levels that promotes renewable energy, and energy efficiency, ~~and cleaner fossil fuel generation; and~~
- ~~2.3.~~ 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

Christian Behavior toward LGBTQ Persons

ACTION ITEM # 308

9203. Christian Behavior Toward LGBTQ Persons (1998, 2003)

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 ~~Church states that “Homosexual persons...are individuals of sacred worth” and “Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God’s grace is available to all”~~ (Social Principles, The ~~2016~~2000 Book of Discipline, par. 161G), and

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

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

WHEREAS: Insufficient condemnation by the church of violent behavior creates an environment ~~in which wherein~~ those who commit violent acts ~~often~~ believe their behavior is acceptable ~~not wrong~~;

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

1. Affirms the duty of all Christians to demonstrate Christian love for all persons, including homosexual persons;
2. Strongly condemns and opposes all kinds of hate, physical violence, threats of violence, and name-calling ~~against gay and lesbian persons. All such behavior is~~ un-Christian and is wrong;
3. Acknowledges that differences over theological understandings about homosexuality-
— ~~These beliefs~~ 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 ~~behavior~~ 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

Post Abortion Stress

ACTION ITEM # 309

9207. Post Abortion Stress (2007)

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Social Principles support “the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers” (161K); and commit our denomination "to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth" (Paragraph 161KJ), and

~~WHEREAS: The 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church overwhelmingly voted to recognize that while there exists a legal right to abortion, many people who experience abortion later have significant pain as a result, and^{1**}~~

WHEREAS: The Social Principles also “encourage local churches to make available contact information for counseling agencies” (161L):

~~WHEREAS: The resultant new paragraph (161K) in the United Methodist Social Principles reads: "Ministry to Those Who Have Experienced an Abortion We urge local pastors to become informed about the symptoms and behaviors associated with post-abortion stress.~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference hereby calls on United Methodists to ~~We further encourage local churches to make available contact information for counseling agencies that offer programs to address post-abortion stress for all seeking help";~~

~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference hereby calls on its elders, local pastors, deacons, and ministerial candidates to "become informed about the symptoms and behaviors associated with post-abortion stress" and to "make available contact information for counseling agencies that offer programs to address post-abortion stress for all seeking help";~~

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages its congregations, pastors, and ~~laity~~ leaders to enter into dialogue with Christ-centered ministries and other agencies that provide counseling for women and men who experience pain because of ~~an~~ a past-abortion and to prayerfully consider how we may serve such ministries with our moral, spiritual, and material support.

~~** (40857 CS Par.161 adopted as amended 5/5/2004 by 818-33 vote; 40860-CSR9999 adopted as amended 5/5/2004 by 835-26 vote);~~

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Support for Low Income Housing

ACTION ITEM # 310

9406. Support for Low Income Housing (1995, 2003)

~~WHEREAS: Over 115,000 Iowa households either pay over 50 per cent of their income for housing costs (when Federal HUD guidelines suggest not more than 33 per cent of family income should go for housing costs) or live in substandard housing, and~~

~~WHEREAS: On average, an Iowan must earn a minimum wage of \$9.10 per hour to afford a two bedroom apartment at current fair market rents, while in some parts of the state the minimum wage needed is as much as \$11.19 per hour, and~~

~~WHEREAS: More than 550 Project Based Section 8 housing units in Iowa have been lost due to owners taking the units to full market rents, and~~

~~WHEREAS: Almost 19,000 Iowans are homeless annually 59 percent of whom are children;~~

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; ~~and~~
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
35. Replacement of Section 8 housing going to full market rent;

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

4
5 FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: We encourage individual churches to participate in
6 Iowa's an annual emphasis on Homelessness using the resources from organizations
7 like the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Housing Sabbath organized by the
8 Iowa Coalition for Housing and the Homeless.

9
10 REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Support of the DREAM Act

ACTION ITEM # 311

9411. Support of the DREAM Act (2005)

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 (~~Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors~~) Act (~~S. 1545~~) and the Student Adjustment Act (~~H.R. 1648~~). The Iowa State Legislature has considered (~~HSB 610~~). ~~These 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

Support for an Increase in Family Investment Program (FIP)

ACTION ITEM # 312

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

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”ⁱ; 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 poor²”, ...and, that “we must continue to advocate for policies that...provide sufficient federal and state funding. Funding for welfare should at a minimum be indexed to the rate of inflation²² 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 and poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as adequate income maintenance. . .”ⁱⁱ; 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 (~~25~~28 years), and

WHEREAS: The Consumer Price Index has increased ~~100~~28% (more than double) from 1989 to 201417ⁱⁱⁱ; and

~~WHEREAS: Many households enrolled in FIP work which reduces the monthly FIP amount, 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 work^{iv}, and

WHEREAS: Increasing the monthly FIP payment by 20% would cost approximately \$9,722,124⁴ 9.7 million¹;

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

1 ¹ ~~2012~~ 2016 The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, page ~~513~~ 409
2 ¶163 IV The Economic Community
3 ² ~~2012~~ 2016 The Book of Resolutions, page ~~588 #4091 and page 590~~ 411 E) Poverty
4 ³ U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics
5 [http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflationconsumer-price-index-and-annual-](http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflationconsumer-price-index-and-annual-percent-changes-from-1913-to-20082017/)
6 [percent-changes-from-1913-to-20082017/](http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflationconsumer-price-index-and-annual-percent-changes-from-1913-to-20082017/)
7 ⁴ Iowa Department of Human Services, November 13, 2014 letter to Lana Ross
8 ⁵ Ibid

Federal Budget Priorities

ACTION ITEM # 313

9514. Federal Budget Priorities (2007)

WHEREAS: In Iowa, there are ~~23,000~~43,000 children without health insurance;¹ ~~Iowa schools are badly in need of repair~~²; workers (7,800 in 2004) are being laid off and need training and support ³ and Iowa has the potential to be a leader in ~~renewable energy industries~~in 2014 109,000 Iowa children were living in poverty²; 158,000 children have parents who lack secure employment ³, and

WHEREAS: Each year ~~15%~~, or ~~\$1360~~ billion, of the military budget is spent by the Pentagon on ~~obsolete~~untested and unneeded weapons systems ⁴; and

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

WHEREAS: Iowa's share of this ~~\$1360~~ 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~~15%~~ of the Pentagon's discretionary budget toward health, education, energy, job training and ~~starting to~~ repayment of the national debt.

(1) (2) (3) Child and Family Policy Center: 2016 Kids Count Data ~~National Priorities Project~~ (3)(4) Sen. John McCain, in "The Hill", 12/19/16 Bureau of Labor Statistics

(4) The Korb Report: A Realistic Defense of America

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

Tobacco

ACTION ITEM # 314

9517. Tobacco (2007)

WHEREAS: ~~20.4234~~ 20.4234% of adults ~~in Iowa smoke in Iowa~~ and ~~18.127~~ 18.127% 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: On average, 4,600 Iowans die each year due to their own tobacco usage, and at the current smoking levels 80,000 children who are alive today will die from smoking, and~~

WHEREAS: Iowa health care costs due to tobacco usage ~~at a low is estimated at is~~ \$1.28 billion ~~794 million~~, and Iowa Medicaid Program (Iowa dollars) is \$235 million for health care due to tobacco usage, and

WHEREAS: ~~Iowa~~ In 2002/2003, Iowa's tobacco prevention spending was 32nd nationally, and ~~prevention dollars are frequently reallocated cutting prevention programming budgets by the Iowa legislature, 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 ~~this~~ 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

Reducing Military Spending to Meet Human Needs

ACTION ITEM # 315

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

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 energy;² and

~~WHEREAS: Wages and family income have stagnated nationally, and Iowa exceeds the national average in low income jobs;³ and~~

~~WHEREAS: The child poverty rate in Iowa is 14% representing a faster rise than in most of the rest of the US³, and~~

~~WHEREAS: One in three children in Iowa lives in a family struggling to pay for basic needs including food³, and~~

WHEREAS: Taxpayers in Iowa are projected to pay \$4.261-billion to the ~~for~~ Department of Defense, not including the cost of war spending in 2012;³

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.

¹20082012 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

ONE (Formerly DATA Debt, AIDS, Trade and Africa)

ACTION ITEM # 316

9613. ONE (Formerly DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, and Africa (2004, 2005)

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;

~~WHEREAS: The 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed resolutions concerning the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, urging education, advocacy and support of HIV/AIDS programs and raising money through the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, and~~

~~WHEREAS: The Board of Church and Society of the Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has been working to educate United Methodists about issues of debt relief and fair trade, and~~

~~WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference has a strong history of support for Africa through the Iowa/Nigeria Partnership;~~

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);—for the purpose of education and ~~advocaey~~ advocacy on issues of AIDS and poverty in Africa;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That ~~local churches of 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.umcmmission.org/explore-our-work/global-health/hivumgaf.in partnership with DATA, Bread for the World and World Vision and to encourage contributing \$1.50/member to the Global Aids fund Advance Special.~~

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Jubilee USA Network

ACTION ITEM # 317

9616. Jubilee USA Network (1999, 2003)

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

~~WHEREAS: Although the Jubilee USA Network has made significant strides toward debt relief in developing nations, much work remains to be done, 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 ~~continues to fall~~ upon the most impoverished members of ~~debt-ridden countries, society,~~ exacting a great social and environmental toll; ~~and~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference affirm all efforts steps by Congress has taken 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

Landmines

ACTION ITEM # 318

9617. Landmines (2007)

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 ~~has been~~ in operation since 1941. ~~IAAP produced landmines in the past but~~ no longer produces landmines~~does~~. 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

Radon Hazards in Iowa

ACTION ITEM # 319

9711. Radon Hazards in Iowa (1989, 2001)

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

WHEREAS: The Iowa Department of Health, provides ~~an excellent~~ 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 ~~reasonably priced and~~ readily available in local communities, and WHEREAS: It is ~~often~~ 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~~ working/living areas where persons are exposed for more than 20 hours per week;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That ~~prudent~~ precautions ~~is~~ be made to reduce radon levels in those buildings/spaces where radon is detected above 10 picocuries per liter ~~with a goal of reducing all areas to a medium t~~ low-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; ~~the Board of Church and Society and anyone~~ others else who requests the information;

~~FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Church and Society encourage and enable local churches to complete their radon testing and appropriately reduce their hazard to safe levels.~~

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society

Inclusive Local Church Membership

ACTION ITEM # 320

9717. Inclusive Local Church Membership (2007)

WHEREAS: We believe the official position of the United Methodist Church regarding membership is contained in Division One, Article IV of the Constitution of the United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS: We believe that Judicial Council Decision 1032 is inconsistent with Division One, Article of IV of the Constitution of the United Methodist Church and that it is a departure from the historical direction of the United Methodist Church regarding membership;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iowa Annual Conference model inclusive behavior by expecting and encouraging its congregations and clergy to abide by the principle: Membership in any local church in the Iowa Annual Conference, and access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church shall not be denied ~~on the basis~~ because of race, color, national origin, economic condition, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, ability or disability, or any other status.

Review by: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Conference Chapter

Support for Native Americans - New

ACTION ITEM # 321

Support for Native Americans (new)

WHEREAS: The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encompasses territory that once was the exclusive geographical home for Native Americans, and

WHEREAS: Iowa United Methodists appreciate the wisdom of Native Americans' respect for land and water—God's creations, and

WHEREAS: Iowa United Methodists recognize the history of their exploitation by settlers and the treaties broken by our government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we commit ourselves to:

1. Encourage and support Native American efforts to preserve their heritage;
2. Respect and champion their human rights to health, education and economic solvency;
3. Actively engage with them when they are threatened by economic forces that diminish their beliefs, or destroy their sacred sites.

REVIEW BY: Board of Church and Society