

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference affirms the missional imperative of addressing the
2 Global HIV/AIDS pandemic by (1) encouraging every local church to focus on the church and
3 global AIDS by encouraging special study groups and emphasizing the challenges liturgically in
4 worship, (2) urging persons to give more than the minimum \$1.00 over four years so the Rocky
5 Mountain Conference might raise at least \$100,000 this quadrennium for the United Methodist
6 Global AIDS Fund , and (3) asking the Planning Committee for the 2007 Rocky Mountain
7 Annual Conference to allocate at least one hour of plenary or program time to help raise
8 awareness of how United Methodists can be involved in the mission of combating global
9 HIV/AIDS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

TERMINATION DATE: June 30, 2007

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION

Rocky Mountain Global AIDS Committee and the following individuals: Donald E. Messer, Sally Geis, Youngsook Kang, Gilbert Caldwell, John Blinn, Denise Bender, Gary Archer, Thomas Cross, Randy Jessen, Paul Murphy, Bonnie Messer, Paula Murphy, Elaine Blinn, Ben Roe, Cathie Kelsey, Matthias Krier, Janet Forbes, Joretta Marshall, Ladelle Dilli, Bill Selby, Derek DeToni Hill, Joyce DeToni Hill, Rhonda Dern, Jolain Graf, William Graf, Pam Everhart, Betty Brown, Bradley Laurvick, William Dean, Melanie Rosa, U Kyaw Win, Richard Arnold, Jean Miller Schmidt, Margaret Rush Hankins, Jim Gulley, Khan McClellan, Earl Hanna, Rhonda Hanna, Liwliwa Robledo, Jay Rundell, Peggy Sewell, Steve Burnett, Judy Owsley, Jeffrey Mahan

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Names: Donald E. Messer
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Centennial, CO 80015
Phone Number: 303-770-5809
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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

RATIONALE: Not debatable

10 **Whereas** the United Nations has warned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic is a “global
11 emergency” and requested the involvement of faith-based organizations, and
12

13 **Whereas** globally over 42 million people are infected and over 27 million have died by this
14 escalating pandemic, and more than 20 million children have become orphaned in Africa, Asia,
15 and Latin America, and in 2005 three million persons died and five million more were infected,
16

17 **Whereas** Christians of all theological persuasions have increasingly recognized that God is
18 calling the church to mission and ministry through providing programs of education, prevention,
19 care, and treatment, and
20

21 **Whereas** The United Methodist Church has responded by appropriate resolutions and the
22 creation of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund with a goal of raising \$8 million through
23 Advance gifts during the quadrennium of 2005-2008, and
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25 **Whereas** the Rocky Mountain Conference has taken leadership in raising these funds by taking
26 action in 2005 to establish special observances combined with fund-raising activities in every
27 local church in September each year of the 2005-2008 quadrennium , and
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29 **Whereas** the Rocky Mountain Conference in 2005 set a minimum goal of 25 cents per member
30 per year or \$1.00 for the quadrennium (a total of approximately \$70,000), and one-half of that
31 amount was raised in six months by individuals and only 40 congregations, and
32

33 **Whereas** 75% of the funds raised are sent to UMCOR for distribution and 25% are distributed
34 by the Rocky Mountain Global AIDS Committee, and in past years the Rocky Mountain
35 Conference has supported AIDS projects of education, care, and treatment in Sierra Leone,
36 Kenya, Russia, India, and in our own region, and
37

38 **Whereas** needs are escalating and the church has an unprecedented opportunity to offer hope,
39 health, and help to persons in need that often face stigmatization and discrimination,
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41 **Whereas** we recognize there remains a great educational challenge to alert our members in the
42 Rocky Mountain Conference to the global AIDS crisis and how the church can be creative and
43 compassionate partners in creating an AIDS-free world,
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45 **Whereas** Jesus taught us that we are to care for the sick and that “as long as you did not do it to
46 one of the least of these members of my family, you did not do it to me,” and
47

48 **Whereas** United Methodist Bishop Felton E. May has reminded us that “The Church cannot
49 conquer AIDS alone, but it will not happen without us,” THEREFORE,