

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRIES IN OUR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 The Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church supports and encourages each
2 local congregation to educate, equip, and empower ministries that provide restorative justice
3 ministries for victims (and their families), offenders (and their families), and communities.
4
- 5 TOGETHER, with God's help, each local congregation is encouraged to take these action steps:
6
- 7 1 EDUCATE your congregation about restorative justice principles and ministries.
 - 8
 - 9 2 EQUIP your congregation through study and reflection on restorative justice
10 ministry opportunities with victims, offenders, their families, and communities
11 impacted by crime.
12
 - 13 3 EMPOWER your congregation to be a local "mission station" for creative and
14 supportive ministries that promote restorative justice and healing for victims (and
15 their families), offenders (and their families), and community members to make
16 things as right or as whole as possible.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

TERMINATION DATE: July 1, 2007

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION: Church and Society Network, Advocating for Peace
with Justice Committee

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

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FINANCIAL IMPACT: None.

RATIONALE: Not debatable

17 This petition encourages and supports each local congregation to educate, equip, and empower
18 restorative justice ministries for victims (and their families), offenders (and their families), and
19 communities.

20
21 It offers a blueprint for building and actualizing the what?, the why?, and the “how to do it”
22 infrastructure that is needed for creating restorative justice ministry in our local congregations in
23 the communities they serve. It replaces retributive justice and expands the practices of traditional
24 prison ministry by becoming inclusive in balancing the restoration needs of victims, offenders,
25 their families, and communities.

26
27 This petition provides local congregation the supports needed for actualizing some of our shared
28 theological understandings and common goals as indicated in:

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30 The vision of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church is to “manifest
31 the love and reign of God...and to transform the society through social outreach and justice
32 ministries.”

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34 The Book of Discipline (of the United Methodist Church), 2004, Paragraph 164, The Political
35 Community, Criminal and Restorative Justice, states; “Through God’s transforming power,
36 restorative justice seeks to repair damage, right the wrong, and bring healing to all involved, in
37 the victim, the offender, the families, and the community.”

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39 The Book of Resolutions (of the United Methodist Church), 2004, Resolution 258, Mission
40 Plan for Restorative Justice Ministries (2004), states, “Restorative justice focuses on the victim,
41 the offender, and the community in the desire to bring healing and wholeness to all ...(and) *A*
42 *Call to Action* (as United Methodists).”