

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

**TITLE: PERMANENCY CONNECTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 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 permanent  
3 connections for children and youth.  
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5 TOGETHER, with God's help, each local congregation is encouraged to take these action steps:  
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- 7       1       EDUCATE your congregation about permanency connection ministries and  
8               opportunities such as these adoption initiatives, the traveling Heart Gallery and  
9               Project 1:27 (Based on James 1:27). (See Attachments)  
10
- 11       2       EQUIP your congregation through study and reflection on the permanency  
12               connection options of adoption, kinship, guardianship, and foster care.  
13
- 14       3       EMPOWER your congregation to be a local "mission station" for creative and  
15               supportive ministries that promote permanency connections for children and  
16               youth.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2006

**TERMINATION DATE:** June 30, 2007

**ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION:**

Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty 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 permanency connection ministries for children and youth in their local communities.

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20 It offers a blueprint for building and actualizing the what?, the why?, and the “how to do it”  
21 infra-structure that is needed for creating nurturing permanency connections for children and  
22 youth through adoption, kinship care, guardianship care, and foster care ministries in our local  
23 congregations for the communities they serve. While there is the notion of separation of church  
24 and government, there is not a wall that prohibits collaborative church and state-county  
25 partnerships that share in common the values of helping children, youth, families, and/or  
26 communities who are seeking permanent connections with a forever family and a church family,  
27 too.

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

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

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36 The Book of Discipline (of the United Methodist Church), 2004, Paragraph 161, The Nurturing  
37 Community, The Family, states; “ The community provides the potential for nurturing human  
38 beings into the fullness of their humanity. We believe we have a responsibility to innovate,  
39 sponsor, and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage the development of the  
40 fullest potential in individuals.”

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42 The Book of Resolutions (of the United Methodist Church), 2004, Resolution 20, Adoption in a  
43 Global Context (2000), states, “Every child is a child of God and deserves to grow up in a safe,  
44 healthy, and loving family environment” and Resolution 21, Support for Adoption (2004), states,  
45 “We believe the family to be the basic human community in which persons are nurtured and  
46 sustained in mutual love, respect and fidelity...(and) the family encompasses a wide range of  
47 options.”