

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: CELEBRATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE HERITAGE

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 Request that the 2007 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference Sessions Committee include in their
2 planning of next year's Annual Conference at least one hour to celebrate the 100th Anniversary
3 of the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the Social Principles. Also that the Design
4 Team of the 2007 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference develop a theme based on Social Action
5 using the focus scripture: "I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people..." and that the
6 Design Team will consider a 2007 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference logo which would
7 include a plumb line.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

TERMINATION DATE: June 30, 2007

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION

Church & Society Network: Advocating for Peace with Justice

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Daniel Klawitter
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FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RATIONALE: Not debatable

8 The Methodist Federation for Social Action is the oldest continuing voluntary social action
9 organization in Protestant denomination and was founded as the Methodist Federation for Social
10 Service in 1907 "to deepen within the church the sense of social obligation and opportunity, to
11 study social problems from the Christian point of view, to promote social service in the spirit of
12 Jesus Christ" and to direct the church's attention to the enormous human suffering among the
13 working class.

PETITION AC 24
PAGE 2 OF 2

14 The Federation was responsible for the church adopting the first denominational social creed in
15 1908 which became our denominations “Social Principles”. From 1908 to 1952, the Federation
16 was the official conscience of the church. In 1952, the predecessor of the General Board of
17 Church and Society was established and the Methodist Federation for Social Action became a
18 voluntary unofficial organization.

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20 The Federation has had great influence in shaping our society by working to eliminate child labor
21 and the seven day work week; to support collective bargaining, to form the American Civil
22 Liberties Union, to advocate for birth control and reproductive choice, to end racism, sexism, and
23 homophobia; to promote peace and justice, stewardship of the environment, civil rights,
24 restorative justice, and human rights for all. It’s work continues today.