

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

**TITLE: 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE THEME BE ON DIVERSITY,
INCLUSIVENESS & RACISM**

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church lift up and adopt Diversity,
2 Inclusiveness & Racism as the theme of the 2007 Annual Conference and support this theme by
3 taking the first step of providing educational workshops on Diversity, Inclusiveness & Racism at
4 the 2007 Annual Conference and, in that particular year; to aid in the transition and lessen
5 unintended slights and incidents between cultures and aid those who are feeling oppressed; or
6 feel they have little or no voice; or feel so, "different"; at odds with; or at a loss in this ever
7 increasing modern and globalized world. This new start of inclusive education will give every
8 opportunity for the Conference and individuals to succeed in their interactions and cross-cultural
9 missions and church life by strengthening relations; providing rules; and traditions for better
10 understanding in cross-cultural communication.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

TERMINATION DATE: June 30, 2007

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION

Name: Religion & Race Committee

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

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FINANCIAL IMPACT: Yes

Cost: Projected to be around \$1 to \$500 for copying of educational materials-actual costs not known exactly, to be determined from attendance, class registration and acceptance of 2007 Conference Budget. Also additional funds may be needed for breakout rooms in the hotel for workshop educational training if not included in the 2007 Annual Conference projected budget of \$5,000 or adjusted under the Conference Registration Fees.

Period: Actual 4 Days of 2007 Annual Conference and for one year for additional training in church arenas (Not to exceed one year.)

Funds can be provided by Annual Conference/Agency: Printing of some Annual Conference materials are already part of Annual Conference Committee Budget, and is already in the projected 2007 Budget Request for Board for A Racially Diverse & Inclusive Church Committee to maintain, train, develop and implement (requested \$4,000), and print and distribute diverse, racial and inclusiveness materials (\$2,500). This could be done through the Board for A Racially Diverse & Inclusive Church Committee at the Annual Conference.

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) _____

Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget ____ Yes/No. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding _____

Reason(s) _____

RATIONALE: Not debatable

- 11 This theme of Diversity, Inclusiveness and Racism has been brought to the Rocky Mountain
- 12 Conference of the United Methodist Church's attention at this time to address the non-
- 13 intentioned, yet, continued feeling of neglect, misunderstood and disconnect felt by different
- 14 cultures and individuals in the Rocky Mountain Conference. For example, many cultures do not
- 15 work directly with other cultures they use mediators or advocates, this is not known by most
- 16 mainstream cultures so can cause ever widening miscommunication and intended goals of each
- 17 group are lost. We want to have all peoples feel welcome, respected, appreciated and loved for
- 18 each diverse gift or talent brought to the Church and give tools to all to fulfill this goal.

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19 When testing out this idea for the theme for the next Annual Conference we asked a couple
20 Conference committees: Church & Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice and the
21 Native American Indian Ministries, were both very much in favor of this theme, and
22

23 **Whereas** ¶ 4 of the Constitution of the United Methodist Church states: “The United Methodist
24 Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race,
25 color, national origin, status, or economic condition...”, and
26

27 **Whereas** the *Book of Discipline 2004* ¶ 138 affirms “In the United Methodist Church
28 inclusiveness means the freedom for the total involvement of all persons who meet the
29 requirements of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* in membership and leadership of the
30 Church in any level and in every place,” and
31

32 This theme is in keeping with the *Vision of the Rocky Mountain Conference*, “to participate in
33 growing and sustaining local churches and spiritual communities” and honors the *Mission of the*
34 *Rocky Mountain Conference*: Support spiritual communities by pledging our prayers, our gifts,
35 and our services; Connect local churches in stimulating and realizing growth, spiritually and
36 numerically; Celebrate significance of each individual by treasuring the diversity that exists
37 among us; Provide outstanding lay and clergy leaders through training, resources and support;
38 Participate through ministries of witness, education, and worship; Connect local churches with
39 the Mission of The United Methodist Church; Support the creation of New faith communities
40 and local churches within the Rocky Mountain area; and Carry out these tasks in a spirit of trust
41 among its members and leadership groups.