

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2008

TITLE: APPOINTMENT-MAKING, CRITERIA, PASTORS

2004 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REFERENCE: 432.2(e)

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **Family situation:** A pastor's family is a significant part of the appointive process. A profile of
2 the spouse and/or family's gifts, evidence of God's grace, professional experience and
3 expectations shall be developed and shared with the staff-parish relations committee and with the
4 congregation during the appointive process. Attention should be given to members of the family
5 with special needs, e.g., a physically challenged child/spouse or other unique health or spousal
6 needs such as employment or education in order to achieve an effective match of pastor, family
7 and charge. This profile should be developed, analyzed annually and in each instance shall be
8 shared with the pastor-parish relations committee or staff-parish relations committee and
9 congregation.

NOTE: UNDERLINE WORDS ARE ADDITION TO CURRENT STATEMENT

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION

Janet E. Black

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

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RATIONALE: Not debatable

10 Item (e), family situation is the only section with no language of explanation. Because the
11 clergy's family is an integral part of the appointive process this section should contain specifics
12 about the family. This petition offers language to point out the importance of family in the
13 appointive process and to point out the need to be attentive to special family needs when making
14 appointments. Just as congregations are unique in their composition so are clergy families.
15 Today's clergy families are faced with the need to have two incomes just as congregants and
16 decisions must be jointly made regarding clergy "moves" that will take the entire family into
17 account. Families must have adequate information in order to make sound decisions about a
18 potential family move--information regarding the church, demographics, community, schools,
19 etc. This information should be part a church profile that is presented to the clergy by the district
20 superintendent. Where there are children, and particularly children with special needs, the
21 congregation must be one that has empathy and sensitivity to the unique needs of the family. In
22 cases of cross-racial appointments, and particularly if a church is not receptive to such an
23 appointment, the conference, cabinet, pastor and family, SPRC and congregation should be
24 involved in cultural and sensitivity training as well as ongoing dialogue about racial concerns.
25 The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church shall serve as the basis for these
26 discussions. A "protective shield or circle" should embrace this family to ensure that the
27 supports that are needed will be in place.