

A RESOLUTION TO PLAN FOR NEW CHURCH STARTS

WHEREAS, The Conference Committee on Congregational Development has initiated the establishment of four new congregations in 2006 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Conference Committee on Congregational Development has a process of discernment and assessment of new church pastors; and

WHEREAS, The population growth of the state of South Carolina is creating many opportunities to fulfill the mandate of the Gospel to make disciples; and

WHEREAS, Property costs continue to rise at an alarming rate creating a need to expedite property transactions for new church starts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church authorize the incorporation of a New Church Property Board of Trustees, and that the board be comprised of eight persons; and be it further

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ¶2552 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, the initial trustees of this Board shall be named by the Bishop; and be it further

RESOLVED, That future classes shall be nominated by the Conference Committee of Congregational Development, to be elected by the Annual Conference; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Board will receive, purchase, hold and dispose of property for the sole purpose of starting new churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, That beginning in January of 2008, The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall utilize a different compensation support schedule for all new church starts. (New church starts initiated prior to January 2008 will utilize the Part 1 schedule (from the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation) for the duration of their support from Equitable Compensation.) Under this new schedule, the Commission will pay up to the minimum compensation base for the category of the person appointed, with the Committee on Congregational Development paying the remainder up to the compensation level adopted by the Cabinet and Congregational Development for that particular new church appointment. The direct bill payments for pensions and health benefits will be split equally between the Committee on Congregational Development and the Commission on Equitable Compensation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the compensation support schedule utilized by the Commission on Equitable Compensation for new church starts beginning in January 2008 shall be as follows:

Year 1 and Year 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum compensation base according to the minister's category and half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 3: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 67% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 4: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 33% of the minimum base compensation amount. The commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 5: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

*Respectfully submitted by the Task Force to Plan for New Church Starts:
Joseph James, Dan Bradley, Ken Owens, Tim McClendon, Rusty Taylor*