

## A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE UMC GLOBAL AIDS FUND

WHEREAS, We seek to be disciples of the One who came to bring good news to the poor and who sent his disciples out to witness and to heal; and

WHEREAS, Over 40 million persons globally are living with HIV and AIDS, and 9,000 people die from AIDS every day; and

WHEREAS, The AIDS pandemic causes five million persons to be infected and three million lives to be lost each year; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 15 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 980 persons who are newly diagnosed with HIV infection, including AIDS, each year in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation among states, and Columbia, South Carolina is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation among cities, in the number of AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, The year 2006 was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first diagnosed case of AIDS; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church established a Global AIDS Fund with a goal of raising \$8 million in Special Askings this quadrennium; and

WHEREAS, One-fourth of those funds raised within our Annual Conference for this Fund remain within the Conference to be distributed as a special Conference Committee deems fit; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church is now determined to demonstrate its own financial commitment through ADVANCE Specials to combating HIV/AIDS; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Annual Conference affirm our commitment to raising an average of \$1.00 per member by special projects, offerings, or other methods as each local church deems best during the 2007-2008 Annual Conference year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages each local church to observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday on a Sunday close to December 1<sup>st</sup>, which is recognized as World AIDS Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the Bishop's appointment of a Conference Global AIDS Committee to (a) provide educational and promotional materials for this observance, and (b) determine the distribution of the 25% of the funds designated for Conference use.

*Submitted by:*

*Rev. John Culp, Member of the National Global AIDS Committee  
and*

*The South Carolina Annual Conference Global AIDS Committee  
Rev. Emily Allen, Chairperson*