

Suggested title: A Commitment to Unity in Mission and Ministry

Resolution: NEW

Financial Implications: None

Sponsoring Agency: General Board of Discipleship

Rationale: General Program agencies (working with the Connectional Table) have developed cooperative endeavors to address the Council of Bishops' call to action (leadership, church growth, global health and reduction of poverty). This resolution commits the general church program agencies to this cooperative endeavor.

Add a new resolution to *The Book of Resolutions* as follows:

**A Commitment to Unity in Mission and Ministry**

**WHEREAS, the mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;**

**WHEREAS, the Council of Bishops has expressed a vision of mission and ministry that articulates the aspirations and ministries prevalent across The United Methodist Connection and the general agencies have responded by identifying four areas of emphasis that live out the vision for the current quadrennium and beyond;**

**WHEREAS, the spirit of collaboration and shared ministry through the Council of Bishops, the Connectional Table, the general agencies and the annual conferences is infusing new energy and recommitment to assure vitality and effectiveness across the Connection;**

**WHEREAS, the following four areas of emphasis provide crucial avenues for shared labor and witness:**

**1. leadership development with particular focus on leading the United Methodist way of discipleship,**

**2. congregational development and new church starts,**

**3. ministry with the poor with particular attention to caring for and protecting children,**

**4. global health by confronting the diseases of poverty and health care access for all,**

***Be it resolved that* we, the General Board of Discipleship,**

**Commit ourselves to work in a spirit of unity with all across the Connection and with our ecumenical partners to give form to new expressions of shared mission and ministry;**

**Commit ourselves to cooperatively foster “A Future of Hope” whereby United Methodist Christians are encouraged and equipped to perform mission and ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ;**

**Commit ourselves to intentionally and collaboratively address the four emphases of congregational development, leadership development, ministry with the poor and global health as we prepare for General Conference 2008 and in planning and budgeting for mission and ministry in 2009–2012.**