

1 Add new resolution to the Book of Resolutions as follows:

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3 **HOLY BOLDNESS: PATHWAYS TO TRANSFORMATION 2009 – 2012:**

4 **A UNITED METHODIST URBAN MINISTRY PLAN FOR MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS**

5 **CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD**

6

7 *Whereas*, change is inevitable but transformation is optional, the United Methodist Church has

8 the opportunity to transform and energize urban churches and communities with holy boldness.

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10 *Whereas*, the Holy Boldness: Pathways to Transformation Plan has been developed to continue

11 and strengthen the National Urban Ministry Plan adopted at the 1996 General Conference and

12 reaffirmed in 2004.

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14 *Whereas*, the primary goal of the Plan calls for the United Methodist Church to provide a vision

15 for the future: identify areas of focus and collaboration; to organize and mobilize resources; and

16 equip leaders to carry out the Plan.

17

18 *Whereas*, according to the “State of the World Population 2007” report, “in 2008, half of the

19 world's population will be in urban areas, and “without proper planning, cities across the globe

20 will face the threat of overwhelming poverty, limited opportunities for youth, and religious

21 extremism.”

22

23 *Whereas*, ultimately, the Pathways to Transformation Plan will be effective if annual
24 conferences, districts and especially, local churches and faith-based community organizations
25 and agencies develop strategies and carry out the agreed-upon goals and objectives.

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27 *Whereas*, it is also critical for the whole church (congregations in and outside urban areas,
28 Annual Conferences and General Church agencies) to work in collaboration to support those
29 working locally to transform urban congregations and the communities to meet the need of
30 growing urban areas.

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32 *Whereas*, the priorities, goals and objectives identified for this Plan were determined through a
33 national survey of laity, pastors, faith-based community organization staff, Annual Conference
34 staff, seminary presidents and deans, and bishops.

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36 *Whereas*, the primary goals are to accomplish the following:

- 37 1. Transform existing urban congregations through training, coaching and mentoring.
38 2. Establish new urban churches and faith communities.
39 3. Identify and develop urban pastors and laity.
40 4. Assist Annual Conferences and districts in urban strategic planning.
41 5. Challenge and assist urban congregations to transform the communities in which they
42 reside.

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44 *Whereas*, the priorities which will inform and guide these goals are:

- 45 • Urban theology and leadership development
- 46 • Urban evangelism and congregational development
- 47 • Living in community with the poor
- 48 • Strengthening and developing multicultural relationships and congregations
- 49 • Eradicating racism and other forms of oppression
- 50 • Creating and developing urban/suburban collaboration and partnerships
- 51 • Community economic development
- 52 • Wholeness, healing and health

53

54 *Whereas*, these goals and priorities further support the four areas of collaboration developed by
55 the Connectional Table: 1) leadership development, 2) starting new congregations, 3) partnering
56 with the poor, and 4) global health. This plan is particularly synergistic with the third proposal,
57 “partner with the poor to seek justice and address the causes of human suffering that result from
58 poverty,” which has been assigned to Global Ministries to take the lead on.

59

60 *Whereas*, urban transformation will require a collaborative effort by local churches working in
61 cooperation with other denominations, community organizations, businesses, and governmental
62 institutions; collaboration will need to occur beyond the city limits by collaborating with exurban
63 churches which share similar challenges, and churches in suburban areas which have committed
64 persons, resources and relational roots in urban neighborhoods, all of which strengthen ministry.

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66 *Whereas*, collaboration will also need to occur at the national level with the National Urban
67 Strategy Council and general agency teams (Global Ministries, Church and Society,
68 Discipleship, Higher Education and Ministry, Religion and Race, and Communications) working
69 together to identify common strategies that they can mutually accomplish; the national strategies
70 linking with local strategies and needs; national collaboration involving the ethnic ministry plans
71 already adopted by our Church with a particular sensitivity to those who are poor; and finally,
72 national collaboration involving other ecumenical and inter-faith bodies and national urban
73 resources.

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75 *Therefore, be it resolved*, that we call upon the general agencies, the National Urban Strategy
76 Council, jurisdictional networks, annual conferences, districts and especially, local churches to
77 take authority and responsibility in being holy and bold to accomplish the goals and objectives of
78 the plan.

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80 Be it further resolved, that the General Board of Global Ministries Office of Urban Ministries
81 will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of the plan. Objectives and action
82 steps have been developed and will be implemented as funding is made available.

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84 Be it further resolved, in order to facilitate this coordination and implementation, the Office of
85 Urban Ministries will have copies of the plan available for any who wish to partner in this effort,
86 and that with God's help, we can re-claim our cities for United Methodism and, in the process,
87 meet Christ on the streets walking with his people.

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