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Trade Products

Resolution Number: 199

Financial Implications: None

General Board of Global Ministries

1 Revise Resolution 199, United Methodist Church Use of Fair Trade Coffee, as follows:

2

3 Amend title:

4 199. United Methodist Church Use of Fair Trade Coffee **& other Fair Trade Products**

5

6 Insert new paragraph in between current paragraphs one and two, as follows:

7 WHEREAS, coffee is one of the world's most heavily traded commodities; it originates

8 from either large plantations that are traditionally run and owned by wealthy landowners

9 or small operations that are primarily owned by impoverished farmers. These small

10 farmers frequently live in isolated communities relying on middlemen to buy their coffee

11 invariably at the lowest price possible. The way the system is set up, the farmers' inability

12 to get a just return for their labor is essentially guaranteed and they are condemned to a

13 life of extreme poverty; and,

14

15 **WHEREAS, tea and cocoa are also major commodities grown on large plantations**

16 **that often exploit farm laborers and impoverish small farmers, and,**

17

18 WHEREAS, biblical justice brings all into the economic community, with a share in

19 productive power as seen in the provision of land to every family unit (Numbers 26;

20 Leviticus 25); and,

21

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23 Insert new paragraphs, in between current paragraphs nine and ten, as follows:

24 WHEREAS, the International Standards of Fair Trade focus on ensuring that small
25 farmers are compensated with a fair and true living wage, working with democratically
26 run farming cooperatives that are owned and governed by and for the farmers themselves,
27 buying directly from the co-ops so that the benefits and profits from the trade actually
28 reach the farmers and their communities, providing vital advance credit to farmers and
29 encouraging sustainable farming practices; and,

30

31 **WHEREAS, fair trade tea, cocoa, olive oil and other produce are now more widely**
32 **available from small farmer cooperatives around the world, and,**

33

34 **WHEREAS, the purchase of fair trade olive oil and other olive products from**
35 **Palestinian farmers provides crucial income to small farmers facing violence, land**
36 **confiscation, and illegal military occupation, and,**

37

38 **WHEREAS, the General Board of Global Ministries has long partnered with and**
39 **supported the Palestinian and Israeli women's cooperative, Sindyanna, and,**

40

41 Amend current paragraphs ten and eleven (last two paragraphs) as follows:

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42 WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church seeks to address
43 the underlying systemic justice issues throughout the world and to provide opportunities
44 for supporting systems based on the values of justice, cooperation, sustainability, and the
45 common good, we therefore create a partnership with a key U. S. Fair Trade organization,
46 Equal Exchange, and join over 5,000 places of worship and faith-based organizations
47 who support small coffee, **tea and cocoa** farmers in developing nations.

48

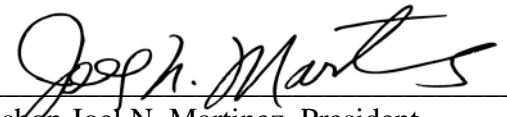
49 Therefore, be it resolved, that in seeking an authentic Christian response to the plight of
50 developing world small individual coffee farmers, their families, and their communities,
51 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church urges all agencies of the church,
52 local congregations and their affiliated organizations that use coffee, **tea, cocoa and/or**
53 **olive oil** to purchase coffee, **tea, cocoa, olive oil and other fair trade products** for
54 corporate and personal use through the fair trade partner, Equal Exchange, or through
55 another fair trade organization.


56 ADOPTED 2004

57 See Social Principles, ¶ 163D.

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61 Bishop Joel N. Martinez, President
62 General Board of Global Ministries
63 475 Riverside Drive, Room 350
64 New York, NY 10115
65 (210) 408.4500
66 E-Mail: bishop@umcswtx.org

60 
61 Rev. R. Randy Day, General Secretary
62 General Board of Global Ministries
63 475 Riverside Drive, Room 350
64 New York, NY 10115
65 (212) 870.3606
66 E-Mail: rday@gbgm-um.org