

Resolution Number: 85

Financial Implications: None

General Board of Global Ministries

1 Revise Resolution 85 as follows:

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3 85. Drinking on Campus

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5 **Our Christian faith calls us to care for each other. Jesus said, “Love your neighbor**

6 **as yourself.” (Matthew 19:19) Jesus also said, “Let the children come to me, and do**

7 **not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14)**

8 **Jesus’ example clearly directs us to care for each other and to give young people**

9 **special attention enabling them to be free from harm.**

10

11 ~~WHEREAS,~~ According to a new survey by the Centers for Disease Control and

12 Prevention (**CDC**), binge drinking is on the rise in the United States and is climbing

13 fastest among 18- to 20-year-olds who are too young to drink legally; and

14

15 ~~WHEREAS,~~ This survey also revealed that episodes of binge drinking, defined **for men**

16 as having five or more drinks in one sitting **and for women as having four or more**

17 **drinks in one sitting**, increased 17 percent among all adults between 1993 and 2001<sup>1</sup>,

18 and ~~shot up~~ **increased even more significantly to 56 percent** among 18- to 20-year-olds;

19 ~~and~~. **This alarming increase indicates that many students nationwide continue to**

20 **engage in binge drinking and drinking to get drunk, with a disturbing percentage of**

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1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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21 **students reporting alcohol-related incidents, such as missing classes, personal**  
22 **injuries, sexual assault, or other forms of violence and vandalism.**

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24 ~~WHEREAS, United Methodist colleges and universities~~ colleges do provide an  
25 environment suitable for pursuing a higher education in a Christian atmosphere; ~~and.~~

26 **Within this environment United Methodist colleges and universities**

27 ~~WHEREAS, the United Methodist related colleges and universities do~~ have **established**  
28 **policies to address** related to alcohol use and abuse on ~~the~~ **their** campuses; ~~and.~~

29 ~~WHEREAS, the United Methodist related colleges and universities spent over \$1.5~~  
30 ~~million to address issues related to alcohol abuse on their campuses; and~~

31 ~~WHEREAS, many students nationwide continue to engage in binge drinking and~~  
32 ~~drinking to get drunk, with an alarming percentage of students reporting alcohol-related~~  
33 ~~incidents, such as missing classes, personal injuries, sexual assault, or other forms of~~  
34 ~~violence and vandalism;~~

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36 **To continue to provide clear direction in addressing this issue at United Methodist**  
37 **colleges and universities, The United Methodist Church:**

38 ~~Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church continue to address this~~  
39 ~~issue through:~~

40 **1. Urges United Methodist-related colleges and universities to utilize the United**  
41 **Methodist Social Principles on Alcohol and drugs (§162J), its companion resolutions**

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42 **on Alcohol and Other Drugs (#83), and the latest research and proven strategies on**  
43 **alcohol prevention to guide the alcohol and drug policies of their institutions.**

44 **2. Encourage and uphold abstinence from drinking and alcohol as a viable and**  
45 **faith-based option.**

46 **3. Provide programming, counseling and social events that foster an amenable**  
47 **environment for an abstinence only campus.**

48 **4. Strongly urge the removal of alcohol-promoting advertisements from campuses**  
49 **and campus sports events.**

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51 **To undergird and assist United Methodist colleges and universities in meeting these**  
52 **goals:**

53 ~~The collaborating with the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence~~  
54 ~~(SPSARV) staff and Interagency Task Force and the General Board of Higher Education~~  
55 ~~and Ministry will, and partnering with the college presidents and/or staff of United~~  
56 ~~Methodist-related~~ **higher education institutions in providing training and resources to**  
57 **address the** , ~~as well as other agencies and programs that are working on the issue of~~  
58 ~~reducing college drinking,~~ **and the** ;

59 ~~2. promoting an alternative lifestyle that encourages "wellness" without drugs and~~  
60 ~~alcohol, seeking authentic advocates for this alternative lifestyle, and having these~~  
61 ~~advocates promote this image on United Methodist campuses around the world;~~

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- 62 ~~3. carrying out the five components of SPSARV on college campuses: Leadership~~  
63 ~~Development, Community Demonstration Programs, Advocacy, Grants, and Educational~~  
64 ~~and Promotional Resources;~~  
65 ~~4. strongly recommending that United Methodist related colleges and universities uphold~~  
66 ~~abstinence from drinking alcohol as a viable and faith-based option, and that these~~  
67 ~~institutions provide/continue to provide programming and social events that foster such~~  
68 ~~an environment; **General Board of Church and Society will continue to actively**~~  
69 ~~**advocate and engage the Church in advocating for legislation and regulations which**~~  
70 ~~**discourage the use of alcohol by youth and young adults and the use of alcohol**~~  
71 ~~**advertising to market to youth and young adults.**~~  
72 ~~5. strongly urging campus leadership to remove alcohol promoting advertisements from~~  
73 ~~the campuses and sports events.~~

74 ADOPTED 2004


75 See Social Principles, ¶162J.


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