

Total number of pages: 3

Suggested title: In support of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry

Book of Resolutions: New

General church budget implications: Yes

Global implications: None

Whereas, the demographic landscape in the United States continues to reveal an unprecedented growing trend among the Hispanic/Latino population as indicated by the 2010 US Census, which counted 50.5 million Hispanics/Latinos in the United States, making up 16.3% of the total population and the nation's Hispano/ Latino population, which was 35.3 million in 2000 and grew 43% over the decade, and it also accounted for most of the nation's growth—56%—from 2000 to 2010, and

Whereas, the Hispanic/Latino population continues to be not only the fastest growing segment of the population but the youngest with an average age of 24 - 27 compared to the national average of 36 years of age; and

Whereas, every annual conference, located in geographical areas experiencing a growing Hispanic/Latino population, represents fertile ground for the development of a challenging and mutually enriching ministry among the Hispano/Latino population, and

Whereas, the United Methodists Church, as part of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world, continues to uphold its commitment to be in ministry with people of all races, nationalities, ethnic groups and social classes, and to reach out to them with open doors, open minds, and open hearts; and

Whereas, more than 50 annual conferences have recognized the strategic importance of an ongoing work towards the implementation of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry's goals, including the development of new faith communities and community ministries, new church starts and revitalization of established congregations, and the development of lay and clergy leadership to support and expand those ministries; and

Whereas, the National Plan, through the past quadrennia, has evidenced its capacity and readiness to respond to the rapid growth of the Hispanic/Latino population and to work side by side with annual conferences and local churches through seed money grants, print and multimedia resources, learning workshop opportunities, and in addition with ongoing accompaniment through its consultants, facilitators and other personnel in the areas of new church development, non-Hispanic congregations reaching out to Hispanics/Latinos, justice ministries and assisting The United Methodist Church in addressing critical issues such as immigration and lay and clergy leadership development, and

Whereas, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) has reported a steady increase in the Hispanic/Latino membership in our denomination over the last few years. In early 2007 the GCFA also reported that 102 new churches had been founded since 2005, and of that number twenty-one of them are Hispanic/Latino; and

Therefore, let it be resolved that MARCHA at its annual assembly, August 11 to 14, 2011, affirms and supports the continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the 2013-2016 quadrennium; and

Furthermore, let it be resolved that MARCHA, after identifying the positive impact that the National Plan has made throughout the denomination, requests the 2012 General Conference to approve the continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry and provide the necessary funds to fulfill its goals and continue its mission for the next quadrennium.

Date: August 14, 2011

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