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Suggested Title: Holistic Strategy on Latin America and the Caribbean

Book of Resolutions: New Resolution

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Holistic Strategy on Latin America and the Caribbean

The Autonomous Methodist and United churches in Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing significant growth in the midst of challenging mission contexts. Most of these churches were the product of the missionary efforts of The UMC and the Methodist Church in Great Britain and are now well established, but new churches have emerged in countries bypassed by the missionary activity and a new Methodist churches have been established in the region, including a UM Mission in Honduras.

The proximity of the Latin American countries to the US has provided UM congregations the opportunity to be in partnership with these churches and we have seen the establishment of Covenant Relationships between Annual Conferences in the US with the Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean as recommended by the *Study Committee on the Relationship Between The United Methodist Church and the Autonomous Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

The migration back and forth between the United States and the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean has led to increased interest and concern from the Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean on how The UMC welcomes and provides for the spiritual needs of their members who migrate to the US and Europe. Persons who have been received into membership of The UMC, upon returning to their country of origin have established new congregations that define themselves as Methodist.

Relationships between Central Conferences in Africa and Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, i.e. Brazil and Mozambique, have led to a sharing of resources, programs, and training opportunities for pastors and lay leaders, a relationship that have benefited both the Annual Conferences in Africa as well as the Autonomous Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ministry of The UMC Hispanic/Latino congregations has been enriched by the contributions of recent immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. A closer relationship of The UMC with the Autonomous churches would enhance the outreach of our church among Hispanic/Latinos in the US.

The economic and political ties between the US, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean requires a careful analysis of social issues and a joint prophetic witness, that advocates for justice

in the complex relationship of power and wealth between the US and the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Therefore, MARCHA, requests the General Conference to support and adequately fund the Holistic Strategy on Latin America and the Caribbean, a Special Program under the coordination of the General Board of Global Ministries and,

Furthermore, MARCHA urges The UMC to find new ways of strengthening its relationship with the Autonomous churches in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Date: August 13, 2011

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