

Total number of pages: 3

Suggested Title: United Methodist Hispanic/Latino College Fund

Resolution Number: New

General Church budget implications: None

Global implications: None

WHEREAS, the Hispanic/Latino population, now totaling 50.5 million (16.3 % of the US population), continues to have the lowest educational attainment level and is among the poorest in the nation, and

WHEREAS, Hispanic/Latino students, faced with extremely critical alternatives, are either forced to drop out from school and join the labor force, or lack the sufficient resources to finance their college education , thus eliminating the possibility of breaking the cycle of poverty that constantly prevents them from social advancement and academic achievement, and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has, historically, valued and recognized formal education as a viable strategy to engender the preservation of human dignity through spiritual and value formation, particularly among the most vulnerable and disenfranchised populations throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic/Latino population with its high incidence of poverty and low educational attainment level is under-represented and under-served in colleges and universities, especially in United-Methodist related institutions of higher education, and

WHEREAS, a good basic college education would be used as a prelude for students to opt for going to seminary and, as a result, increase the pool of options for recruiting Hispanic/Latino students interested in the Ordained Ministry , and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need and in the best interest of the United Methodist Church to ensure its vitality and future by having a cadre of seminary prepared Hispanic/Latino pastors and community leaders, and

WHEREAS, education as one of the best long range strategies to achieve upward social mobility

is also the most important factor influencing the well-being of individuals, their communities, and the nation, and

WHEREAS, numerous Hispanic/Latino youth in the United Methodist Church have expressed the desire to go to college and seminary but lack the financial means to make these dreams come true, and

WHEREAS, the HANA and other Scholarship Funds, even when helpful, have proven to be a limited resource for the growing Hispanic/Latino student population; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a college/seminary fund was one of the most important strategies envisioned at the National Hispanic/Latino(a) Leadership Development Consultation, celebrated at the Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas, on April 10-13th, 2011 and became one the priorities for the next quadrenium,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2012 General Conference authorizes The National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and MARCHA, to develop a plan and raise funds for the creation of a “United Methodist Hispanic/Latino Scholarship Fund.” This Fund should be established and working by the 2016 General Conference.

Date: August 13, 2011

Entity: Methodist Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA)

President: Raúl B. Alegría

Executive Director, Elías Galván

Phone: 480 643 0013

E-mail Address: galvan222@msn.com

Signature of Authorized Submitter: Raúl B. Alegría