

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE PASSAGE OF
THE HISTORIC HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION, MARCH 2010**

WHEREAS, during the elections held in the month of November in the 2008th year of our Lord, the world witnessed the election of Barack H. Obama, the first African American president of The United States of America, and

WHEREAS, on a crisp January day on the steps of the Capital Building of The United States of America, Barack H. Obama, was officially sworn into the office of President by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of The United States of America, and

WHEREAS, in fulfillment of promises made during the long and arduous campaign for the presidency, Barack H. Obama, continued a tireless effort to secure the right of access to fair and affordable health care services, and

WHEREAS, the members of The United Methodist Church have continued to live in pursuit of our founding principles of holy boldness and social justice that are bounded upon the biblical mandates including “doing justice” and “loving kindness,” and

WHEREAS, John Wesley, founder of The Methodist Church, found ways to offer medical services at no cost to the poor in London, and

WHEREAS, the first Methodist Social Creed (adopted in 1908) urged working conditions to safeguard the health of workers and the community, and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, Resolution 3201, entitled “Health Care for All in the United States” was adopted, and

WHEREAS, in paragraph 162.V in the 2008 Book of Discipline (pp. 117-118) our Social Principles state that health care is a basic human right and affirms the duty of government to assure health care for all, and

WHEREAS, Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer, President of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, reminded all members The United Methodist Church that our denomination has been involved in conversations regarding health care over eight successive General Conferences, and

WHEREAS, the members of The United Methodist Church, without regard to status as laity or clergy, are reminded of our embrace of the ideal of a priesthood of all believers, and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, II, an Elder of The United Methodist Church and a member of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in fulfillment of his vows of ordination and his pledge of allegiance has taken full advantage of his opportunity and privilege to speak in the prophetic tradition of Amos to “let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,” and

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WHEREAS, the Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, II, while being born in humble beginnings, never doubted his worth as an individual, a citizen of the United States of America, or as a child of God, demonstrated unequivocally the challenging words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “willing to accept the blows without resorting to retaliation” and to “resist the urge to let anyone pull you so low as to stoop to hatred,” and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, II, revealed himself to the world to be a living witness of the teachings of Jesus Christ to “bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you,” and

WHEREAS, Resolution 3201 further highlights some of the well-known disparities in health care and mortality statistics among African Americans such as “African American women die from cervical cancer at three times the rate of Caucasian women,” “African Americans have a significantly lower life-span than Caucasians and Hispanics, and have the least access to the health care system of any group,” and

WHEREAS, many African Americans have experienced personally the economic, social, physical, and emotional toll which results from generations of systemic injustice, oppression, abuse, and neglect, that has only been aggravated by the overwhelming sense of frustration experienced when observing the denial of service and care to those who have pioneered medical procedures and helped build the institutions to which access is too often denied in moments of greatest need, and

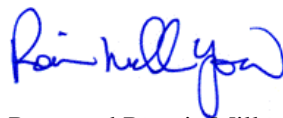
WHEREAS, the determination of a people of faith has been nurtured historically in an institution called the Black Church, they have been buoyed by the prayers of preachers, mothers, the likes of Maceo D. Pembroke, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Bishop James Thomas; they have been encouraged by the audacity of fathers, sisters, and brothers like Ernest Smith, Thelma Barnes and David White; they have been inspired by sons and daughters like Ronnie Miller-Yow and Erin Hawkins,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT,
NATIONAL BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL, INC., EXPRESSES OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR BARACK OBAMA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER, II AND OTHER COURAGEOUS LEADERS OF OUR NATION WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO SECURE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF OUR NATION.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,
NATIONAL BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL HONORS AND APPRECIATES THE BOLD WITNESS, FAITH, TENACITY, DISCIPLINE, AND RESTRAINT OF CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS AND HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP JAMES E. CLYBURN AS EXAMPLES OF THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,
NATIONAL BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL DEPLORES ANY BEHAVIOR THAT DEVALUES OR BELITTLES THE WORTH OF ANY PERSON REGARDLESS OF THAT PERSON’S RACE, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR ETHNICITY.

Adopted this day, March 26, 2010.



Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow, Chair
National Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc.