

1                   **2013 ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MOTION**  
2

- 3    A. The 2013 Peninsula-Delaware Conference will be held at the Ella Fitzgerald  
4       Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess  
5       Anne, Maryland. The voting bar of the Conference shall be all the seating on the main  
6       floor of the auditorium. The roll call shall be taken by all members signing Roll Call  
7       cards at the registration desk.
- 8    B. The published program is the program of the Conference, subject to changes by the  
9       Conference President, Bishop Peggy Johnson.
- 10   C. All members shall have a valid Conference badge.
- 11   D. Members may be excused from the sessions upon report to the District  
12       Superintendent or Secretary.
- 13   E. The Conference Minutes shall be made the official Journal of the Conference and the  
14       Secretary is authorized to edit and condense the same.
- 15   F. The Teams, Task Forces, Boards, Commissions, and Committees, as recorded in the  
16       Journal, shall become the Teams, Task Forces, Boards, Commissions and Committees  
17       of the Conference, with such corrections as may be needed.
- 18   G. All motions shall be presented to the Secretary on the forms provided for this purpose  
19       prior to or at the time they are presented to the Conference. Forms may be found on  
20       the Secretary's desk or secured from an usher.
- 21   H. In exceptional circumstances, resolutions received after the announced deadline of  
22       March 1, 2013, but not later than Thursday morning, June 6, 2013, will be reviewed  
23       by the Sessions Resolutions Committee.
- 24   I. When the customary draft is received from the United Methodist Publishing House, it  
25       shall be endorsed and given to the Conference Treasurer.
- 26   J. Richard Browne shall be the reporter for United Methodist Information and  
27       Publications and the press contact person for the religious and secular media.
- 28   K. Michael F. Hurley shall be named the Head Usher and Doorkeeper of the Sessions.

- 29 L. The following shall be designated Assistant Secretaries for the 2013 session of the  
30 Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference: Candy Miles, Boe Harris, and Marilyn  
31 Cleeton.
- 32 M. All materials to be published in the Journal shall be in the hands of the Secretary no  
33 later than June 22, 2013 or they will be excluded.
- 34 N. The Rules of Order shall be those published in the 2013 Pre-Conference Materials of  
35 the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference.
- 36 O. In order to be recognized and recorded, persons wishing to speak must give their  
37 name and the charge or office through which the person holds membership in the  
38 Annual Conference. Persons who are not members of Annual Conference may only  
39 speak with the consent of the Conference.
- 40 P. The Conference ushers shall only distribute information that was not previously  
41 published in electronic format and pertaining to the presentations given during the  
42 plenary session.
- 43 The Consent Calendar will be presented for adoption on Friday June 7, 2013.

## Conference Rules of Order

*The following rules assist lay and clergy members of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference in their holy conferencing. These rules are determined by the Annual Conference and are found in the Conference journal. Changes to these rules require the action of the Annual Conference.*

- Rule 1: The Conference shall convene and adjourn at the discretion of the presiding Bishop and the Sessions Committee. The Conference in plenary session may alter the time of convening or adjourning.
- Rule 2: The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Conference; but in case of such an appeal the question shall be taken without debate, except that the appellant may make a simple statement of the grounds of the appeal.
- Rule 3: Resolutions shall be accepted from local churches, conference agencies, conference related institutions, or individual church members. The deadline for receiving these resolutions shall be fixed annually by the Conference Secretary.

Resolutions received in compliance with deadline, shall be distributed by the Secretary to clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference at least ten days prior to the Annual Conference session. (Whenever feasible, resolutions will be made available to conference members for the Pre-Conference Orientations.)

In exceptional circumstances, resolutions received after the announced deadline, but not later than the first morning of the Annual Conference session, will be reviewed by the Sessions Resolutions Committee. That Committee shall consist of the Presiding Bishop, the Chairperson of the Sessions Team, the Dean of the Cabinet, the Conference Secretary and the Conference Lay Leader. The Committee will determine which resolutions will be scheduled for agenda time of the Conference session. If scheduled, the printing of the required number of copies (800) would be the responsibility of the party presenting the resolution.

During the course of the Annual Conference Session, all motions, amendments and substitute motions arising from matters under consideration shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing at the time they are made or as soon thereafter as possible.

- Rule 4: When a motion is made and seconded, or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a report presented and read by the Secretary, or stated by the President, it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference; but any motion or resolution may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the Conference, at any time before amendment or decision.
- Rule 5: No new motion or resolution shall be entertained until the one under consideration has been disposed of, which may be done by adoption or rejection, unless one of the following motions shall intervene which shall have precedence in the order in which they are placed, namely:
1. To fix the time in which the Conference shall adjourn;
  2. To adjourn;
  3. To take a recess;
  4. To lay on the Table.
  5. To call for the previous question;
  6. To postpone to a given time;
  7. To refer;
  8. To substitute;
  9. To amend;
  10. To postpone indefinitely;
- Rule 6: A motion to amend shall be in order, and a substitute for any original or amended motion shall be received. Such a substitute motion shall be subject to amendment, and if a substitute be accepted, it shall operate as an amendment to the original proposition.
- Rule 7: When a person is about to speak in debate, or to deliver any matter to the Conference, that person shall rise and respectfully address the President, but shall not proceed until recognized. When recognized, the person shall give his or her name and the name of the charge or office through which the person holds membership in the Annual Conference. Persons who are not members of the Annual Conference may be permitted to speak only with the consent of the Conference.
- Rule 8: No speaker shall be interrupted while speaking except by the President. The President may call the speaker to order. But any member may call the attention of the President to the subject when the member deems a speaker out of order; and any speaker may explain when the speaker thinks that he or she has been misrepresented.

- Rule 9: When a member desires a question of privilege, the member shall briefly state the question; but it shall not be in order for the member to proceed until the President shall have decided it a privileged question.
- Rule 10: No person shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor more than four minutes at one time, without leave of the Conference; nor shall any person speak more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.
- Rule 11: When any motion or resolution shall have been enacted by the Conference, it shall be in order for any member who voted with the prevailing side to move reconsideration; but a motion to reconsider is a non-debatable motion and shall be decided without debate.
- Rule 12: No member shall be absent from the sessions of the Conference without leave, unless the member is sick or unable to attend. Leave requests shall be forwarded to the Conference Secretary.
- Rule 13: Only members who are within the bar of the Conference at the time a question shall be put by the President shall be allowed to vote on any such question, except by leave of the Conference when such member has been necessarily absent.
- Rule 14: Every member who is within the bar at the time a question is put shall vote, unless the Conference, for special reason, shall excuse the member.
- Rule 15: It shall be in order for a member to move that the question be taken without further debate on any measure pending, except in cases in which character is involved, and if sustained by two-thirds, the question shall be taken.
- Rule 16: The motion to adjourn shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except, (1) when a member has the floor; (2) when a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken; (3) when the question is pending or seconding the demand for the previous question; (4) when the previous question has been called and sustained, and is still pending; and (5) when a motion to adjourn has been rejected and no business or debate has intervened.

- Rule 17: All reports of the Teams, Task Forces, Boards, Commissions, and Committees shall be published and distributed to members of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting of the Annual Conference. Distribution will be in electronic format. Hard copies will be made available to a member upon request. Reports to be included must be in the hands of the Secretary by the date set annually by the Vision Team.
- Rule 18: No report shall be received or adopted by the Conference until a copy has been placed in the hands of the Secretary.
- Rule 19: These rules shall not be suspended or amended except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- Rule 20: All materials to be published in the Journal shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary not later than 14 days following the adjournment of the Annual Session or they shall be excluded, the date to be part of the Organizational motion of the Annual Conference.
- Rule 21: The Committee on Clergy and Lay Leadership shall distribute copies of its report to the Annual Conference on the day before the report is to be voted on by the Annual Conference.
- Rule 22: Recommendations as to change in policy regarding data to be included in the Journal shall be determined by the Journal Committee and submitted to the Annual Conference for action.
- Rule 23: With the exception of the Board of Ordained Ministry, no member of any Team, Task Force, Board, Division, Committee or Commission shall serve more than two consecutive quadrennia on said Team, Task Force, Board, Division, Committee or Commission or be eligible to be re-elected until after one quadrennium has elapsed except that members of Teams, Task Forces, Boards, Committees or Commissions elected for three-year terms may serve three consecutive terms and then be ineligible to be re-elected until after one term has elapsed; except further that when a person is elected to fill an unexpired quadrennium or term, completion of that quadrennium or term shall count as a full quadrennium or term.

Persons elected to the Board of Ordained Ministry may serve a maximum of three consecutive four year terms. No person, lay or clergy, shall be elected to serve on more than two Teams, Task Forces, Boards, Divisions, Committees, or Commissions concurrently, with the exception of the committees elected or

appointed for the Annual Conference session, specified ex-officio persons, district committees whether or not elected by the Annual Conference.

Rule 24: Lay members of the Annual Conference will be elected quadrennially at the charge conference immediately following General Conference. They shall assume office January 1 following the General Conference session. A lay member may be re-elected for another quadrennium but must wait one quadrennium before being eligible for election for a third term.

Rule 25: Membership of the Annual Conference consists of an equal number of clergy and of lay members.

Clergy members shall include those identified in Par 602, *The Book of Discipline*, as follows: deacons and elders in full connection; provisional members; associate members; affiliate members; and, local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a charge. Lay membership designated by Par. 32 of the *2008 Book of Discipline* includes: a professing lay member elected by each charge; each charge served by more than one clergy member being entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members; the Conference lay leader; District lay leaders; Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries; Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if Lay); Conference president of the United Methodist Women; Conference president of the United Methodist Men; the chair of the Annual Conference college student organization; Conference president of United Methodist Youth; the diaconal ministers; the active deaconesses and home missionaries under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the Annual Conference; one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) from each District; one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each District; and the president or equivalent officer of the Conference Young Adult organization, and persons listed in (Par. 602.1.e.) of the 2008 Book of Discipline. The lay members shall have been members of The United Methodist Church for the two years preceding their election and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election.

When the Conference Secretary determines that lay members number fewer than clergy members, lay membership in the annual conference shall be increased to equal the number of clergy members. To provide for the increase, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference designates (1) each charge enrolling more

than 500 members, but having only one clergy member appointed to it, shall elect one additional lay member; each charge having more than one clergy member appointed shall elect, in addition to the lay members equaling the number of clergy appointed, an additional lay member when enrolling more than 1,000 members and an additional lay member for each increment of 500 members thereafter. Charges shall give priority to the consideration and election of youth and young adult members. (2) Lay persons in the following positions shall be included as an equalization lay member as needed: Officer of the Annual Conference; voting member of the Vision Team; Chairperson (or equivalent) of a conference level Team, Board, Committee, Commission or Council; Associate Conference Lay Leaders; all former Conference Lay Leaders; Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, District Council Chairperson; District United Methodist Women president; District United Methodist Men president, Lay persons, from this Conference, serving on General Boards, Commissions, Committees, Councils or Divisions. (3) The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (or equivalent) shall elect as many youth members as needed to maintain a balance, divided equally among the districts. Preference should be given to youth who are members of charges served by a non-voting pastor. For those elected under sections (1) and (2), each charge will inform the conference office of whom they elected. The Conference Council of Youth Ministry is responsible for informing those elected under (3). All elected under Rule No. 25 will be included in all pre-conference mailings.

- Rule 26: All budget requests must be referred to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration prior to Annual Conference.
- Rule 27: A motion at Annual Conference which would require an increase to the Conference Budget or the Proposed Conference Budget shall be referred to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration for comment and recommendation prior to final approval.
- Rule 28: All statistical material for inclusion in the Statistical Tables to be printed in the Official Journal must be submitted by January 31 or they may not be included.
- Rule 29: In keeping with paragraph 657 in the 2008 Book of Discipline which states "A District Conference shall be held if directed by the Annual Conference of which it is a part and may be held upon the call of the district superintendent, which call shall specify time and place." A district superintendent may call a

District Conference with the consent of the presiding Bishop and the District Lay Leader. This rule will be reviewed quadrennially at the Annual Conference following each session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Rule 30: The President will ensure that the Conference session is instructed concerning procedures for voting for delegates to the General and Jurisdictional conferences. In the course of balloting, a ballot will be invalid if it contains votes for a greater number of candidates than the specific number of candidates, indicated by the President.

Rule 31: The following Process will be used for determining an Annual Conference endorsement of nominee(s) for Episcopal Office:

The General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation shall have the privilege of placing nominees before the annual conference. In the case where the Delegation recommends a nominee(s) the Annual Conference shall move to a ballot where the nominee(s) shall be assigned a balloting number. Others shall be considered nominees who receive write-in votes on the first ballot and will be assigned balloting numbers on the next ballot. No other formal nominations shall be in order. The members of the annual conference shall have the right to vote in favor of one of these or to vote a blank ballot.

When a person is named on not less than two thirds of the valid ballots cast, that person shall be considered to be an Episcopal nominee of the annual conference. Ballots will continue until at least two ballots have been taken, and there is a motion to discontinue balloting, or the third ballot has been taken, and there has been no nomination. If no person has been named on two thirds of the ballots cast on any of the first three ballots taken, then no person shall be considered to have been nominated by the Annual conference.

In the case where the Delegation's report does not bring forth a recommendation for a nominee for Episcopal endorsement by the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall move to a ballot where the Annual Conference will vote yes or no to accept the Delegations report. If two thirds of the valid ballots cast, uphold the Delegation's report that will end the balloting and the election process for nominees for Episcopal Endorsement, including motions for nominations from the floor of the Annual Conference. If the Delegation's report does not received two thirds support of the valid ballots cast, then the Annual Conference will move to the second ballot, which will be

a write in ballot. Those persons who receive votes on this second ballot will be assigned balloting numbers for the third and final ballot. No other formal nominations shall be in order. The members of the annual conference shall have the right to vote in favor of one of these or to vote a blank ballot.

When a person is named on not less than two thirds of the valid ballots cast, that person shall be considered to be an Episcopal nominee of the annual conference. If no person has been named on two thirds of the ballots cast on any of the ballots taken, then no person shall be considered to have been nominated by the Annual conference.

Only the person(s) selected in the foregoing manner shall be deemed the nominee(s) of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, but this procedure shall not prevent the possibility of a member of the conference becoming a candidate for the episcopacy otherwise.

**2013 CONSENT CALENDAR**

A.

B.    Advocacy Resource Team ..... B-1  
      Committee on Native American Ministries ..... B-3  
      Salisbury Urban Ministries ..... B-8  
      Neighborhood House, Inc. .... B-9  
      Methodist Action Program..... B-13

C.    Christian Service Team  
      Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership Team ..... C-1  
      Volunteers in Mission ..... C-3  
      Conference Appeals Coordinator Report ..... C-7  
      Annual Conference Appeals Approved ..... C-10  
      Africa University..... C-10

D.    Conference Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry ..... D-1  
      Board of Ordained Ministry..... D-3  
      Wesley Foundation: University of Delaware ..... D-4  
      Wesley Foundation: Salisbury University ..... D-9  
      Wesley Foundation: Delaware State University ..... D-11  
      Wesley College Campus Ministry..... D-12

E.    Administrative Ministries  
      Board of Pensions ..... E-1  
      Board of Pensions Resolutions ..... E-4  
      Commission on Equitable Compensation ..... E-5  
      2012 Equitable Compensation Support ..... E-6  
      Conference Council on Finance and Administration ..... E-8  
      Personnel Committee..... E-9  
      The Philadelphia Area Committee on Episcopacy..... E-10

F.    Vision Team..... F-1  
      Board Of Lay Ministries..... F-2  
      Young People’s Ministries ..... F-4  
      United Methodist Women..... F-5  
      Congregational Development Corporation..... F-6  
      Pecometh Camping & Retreat Ministries ..... F-8

G.    Commission on Archives & History..... G-1

T.    Conference Treasurer’s Report & 2011 Board of Pensions..... T-1



1                   **RESOLUTION TO 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
2                   **Presented AC Appeals Coordinator**

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4                   **Resolution to Establish Conference Advance Specials for 2013-2016**  
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6                   The Christian Service Team recommends adopting the following mission  
7 projects to be Conference Advance Special Projects for the current quadrennium  
8 (2013-2016). Each church is encouraged to receive an Offering in support of  
9 these vital projects. Promotion responsibility for each project has been assigned  
10 to a Team or Task Force of the Annual Conference.

11  
12                   **Central Congo Partnership Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

13                   First adopted in 2003, the Central Congo Partnership is our main overseas  
14 hands-on mission project. Our target is to raise at least \$60,000 annually for this  
15 effort. Supported projects include education, farming, communication, medical,  
16 nutritional and new agriculture components. Some funds might also be used to  
17 partially fund VIM trips to the DRC so people of our Annual Conference can see  
18 and participate directly in our supported projects.

19  
20                   **Partners of Leadership Resources for the Churches in Africa (PLRCA) – 1<sup>st</sup>**  
21 **Sunday after Easter**

22                   The mission of this religious organization is to produce and distribute  
23 quality Christian leadership resources to the Central Conferences of the UMC in  
24 Africa. There is dire need for such resources for more effective discipleship and  
25 faithful leadership as the churches in Africa are growing in amazing ways.

26  
27                   **Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of June**  
28 **(Start of Hurricane Season)**

29                   This will be a time to celebrate how God is working through Volunteers in  
30 Mission, including local, national, and international VIM ministry as well as  
31 Emergency Response to disasters. Churches are encouraged to have speakers  
32 share about their VIM experiences in worship. The offering will support this  
33 ministry throughout the Conference with a goal of providing financial support to  
34 Conference- sponsored VIM Teams.

35  
36                   **Deaf Ministries Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of July**

37                   One of the four Focus Areas of the UMC is eliminating poverty by stopping  
38 deaths from preventable diseases. Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds in sub-  
39 Saharan Africa. By providing treated bed-nets, this can be greatly reduced.  
40 Each net costs \$10 to make, deliver and train the family on its proper use. The  
41 insecticide on the nets lasts five years. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 before the  
42 end of this quadrennium.

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47                   **Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries – Mid-August**

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49 Pecometh's vision is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of  
50 the world through Christ-centered peace and play in our unique Eastern Shore  
51 setting. Pecometh partners with Peninsula-Delaware Conference churches in  
52 discipleship formation for persons of all ages, from summer camp to senior adult  
53 retreats. Contributions help to support the ministry so that the cost of camp and  
54 retreat programs can be kept affordable.

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56

57 **Board Of Ordained Ministry Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day**

58 At any given time, our Annual Conference has 45-60 pastors in seminary  
59 or taking the Course of Study program. Imagine doing that on what we pay  
60 them! Your apportionment gifts provide us with \$65,000 in scholarship funds  
61 each year, less than 20% of the annual educational costs. This Sunday has two  
62 purposes - raising scholarship funds and developing "A culture of the Call" so our  
63 young people would consider the ministry as a life's calling.

64

65 **Africa University Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of November**

66 As a Conference, we have fully funded two scholarships at Africa  
67 University. As an example of why we continue to promote Africa University,  
68 earlier this year the University was accepting livestock and produce in lieu of  
69 currency from students because of the economic situation in Zimbabwe.

70

71 **AC Ministry Projects Receiving Apportioned Funds not listed above**

72 Annual Conference Ministry projects that are included as part of the AC  
73 budget are permitted to send one conference-wide appeal and one home district-  
74 wide appeal letter each year to appeal for extra funds from our churches.  
75 Examples are: Wesley Foundations, MAP, Neighborhood House, and Salisbury  
76 Urban Ministries. Disaster and VIM Team appeals are exempt from this  
77 restriction.

78

79 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Kevin Goodwin

80

**RESOLUTION TO 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION  
Presented AC Appeals Coordinator**

**Imagine No Malaria Resolution**

The Worldwide United Methodist connection is in the process of raising \$75,000,000 to fight and **eliminate** Malaria. As of 2012, over \$26,000,000 has been collected.

The Imagine No Malaria approach is focused on four key areas:

**Prevention:** To date, Imagine No Malaria is responsible for the distribution of **846,000 insecticide-treated bed nets** throughout the continent. Late in 2012, we provided our 1 millionth mosquito net to protect a family in Africa. Your gift will make that happen?

**Education:** We know that local people are the most credible and trusted source for information about malaria. So, we have trained more than **5,000 community health workers** to personally deliver mosquito nets and measure usage rates. Recent efforts in Sierra Leone and the Dem. Rep. of Congo have produced net usage rates exceeding 80%.

**Communication:** Behavior-change communication includes how to use and care for a bed net, and when to seek treatment for the disease. In addition to word-of-mouth outreach, the United Methodist radio station in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) broadcasts message about malaria to thousands of listeners each day.

**Treatment:** The United Methodist Church operates more than 300 hospitals, clinics and health posts throughout Africa. This vital healthcare infrastructure is a critical part of how we will overcome the disease. In order to be effective, however, these facilities must have life-saving resources like rapid diagnostic tests and malaria drugs.

**Therefore** the United Methodists of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference commit themselves to raise \$50,000 over the next thirteen months for **Imagine No Malaria**.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Kevin Goodwin

Imagine No Malaria Pledge – For your records

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

39 Gifts can be sent to the Conference Office on the General Advance lines of the  
40 Benevolence Transmittal Form (Advance # 3021190). All gifts should be  
41 submitted by June 30, 2014.

42  
43 -----Cut here and bring to Annual Conference-----

44  
45 **Imagine No Malaria Pledge**

46  
47 District & Charge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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49 Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

50 Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

51 Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

52 Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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54 Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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56 -----Cut here and bring to Annual Conference-----

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**RESOLUTION TO 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

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**Presented Commission on Archives and History**

**Carey's Camp Resolution**

WHEREAS Carey's Camp in Sussex County, Delaware, is this year marking its 125<sup>th</sup> year of continuous operation as a Methodist camp meeting,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that, on recommendation of the Conference Commission on Archives and History, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference designates Carey's Camp as a Conference Historic Site.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Kenyon L. Camper**





17 **WHEREAS**, “gun violence in U.S. schools has emerged as a growing and disturbing  
18 trend”<sup>6</sup>; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the General Conference calls upon The United Methodist Church to:

20       Develop advocacy groups within local congregations to advocate for the eventual  
21 reduction of the availability of guns in society... and to support federal legislation  
22 in the U.S. Congress to regulate the importation, manufacture, sale and possession  
23 of guns and ammunition by the general public. Such legislation should include  
24 provisions for the registration and licensing of gun purchasers and owners,  
25 appropriate background investigation and waiting periods prior to gun purchase,  
26 and regulation of subsequent sale;<sup>7</sup> and

27 **WHEREAS**, the President of the United States, the Governor of Maryland and the  
28 Governor of Delaware are making plans to strengthen gun laws to make them more  
29 effective in reducing gun-related violence; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the  
31 children of God.”<sup>8</sup>

32 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that members of the Peninsula-Delaware  
33 Conference shall support legislative efforts to reduce gun violence throughout our

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Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway, “Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003,” *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, published online ahead of print, June 2010).

6  
*The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church*, ¶3426, 2012.  
(ADOPTED 2000, revised and readopted 2008).

7  
Ibid.

8  
Matthew 5:9 King James Version

34 country by advocating for the reduction of guns and ammunition and by supporting  
35 legislation to regulate the sale to and possession of guns and ammunition by the general  
36 public.

37 **Petition Submitted by:** Tom Pasmore for the Advocacy Resource Team

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39 **Date Submitted:** March 1, 2013

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## **Resolution Concerning Church Staff Eligibility**

The Board of Pensions monitors benefits including health and dental insurance, life insurance, and retirement benefits that support clergy and lay persons employed by the Conference, local churches, boards or agencies related to the Annual Conference. The Board of Pensions makes recommendations for changes in those benefits and the methods of funding them when appropriate.

The new Affordable Care Act (ACA) regulations require, in part, that employers with more than 50 employees must offer an affordable health plan and that the plan meets the minimum value standards or face a penalty. If just one of its full-time employees receives federal assistance to purchase insurance through an exchange, the Conference could face penalties of up to \$2,000 per employee, excluding the first 30 employees, estimated to be \$326,000.

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference is considered a “single employer with an affordable health plan meeting the minimum value standards” for all clergy and Conference/District staff. The Board of Pensions has determined that using the current Consumer Directed Health Plan (CDHP) is more cost effective and prudent at this time. All ACA regulations, especially those designed for churches, have not been finalized and the full impact of all the new regulations is not known at this time.

The Conference currently allows local churches with lay employees working 20 hours a week or more to participate in the Conference health plan or a different health plan as long as the local church agrees to participate in only one plan. Local churches participating in the Conference health plan offer a variety of funding arrangements from 100% paid by the church to 100% paid by the employee. This variety makes it likely that at least one full-time employee would be eligible to receive federal assistance through a federal exchange. The ACA regulations place the burden of penalties on the Conference and not the local church’s plan that did not qualify as an affordable plan for all lay employees working 30 hours or more a week.

**Be it Resolved that** the Board of Pensions, in order to provide a cost effective plan for the entire Conference health plan, recommends that the local church lay employees no longer be eligible in the Conference health plan effective January 1, 2014 or the earliest date thereafter when Exchanges become available. Local churches should begin to consider providing coverage for full-time employees, allowing staff to enroll in an Exchange, having waivers signed for employees who have other coverage or reducing hours to less than 30 hours a week.