

Delete Resolution # **3395 Ministries of Rural Chaplains** and substitute the following:

Rural Chaplains in Ministry

WHEREAS, Rural Chaplains are lay and clergy, women and men, who have sensed the call to live in, work with, and advocate for town and rural persons, families, churches, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Rural Chaplains serve as a voice for justice and an instrument of hope and healing for those who experience pain and hardships in facing issues including economic, educational, health, social, multi-cultural, and spiritual struggles; and

WHEREAS, the Rural Chaplains Association plans an annual focus event to provide both lay and clergy Rural Chaplains a supportive setting for sharing insights and perspectives on rural churches and communities, including consequential learning from experiential exposures related to issues such as immigration, migrant workers, farm workers, rural businesses, health, public education, and social agencies; and

WHEREAS, Rural Chaplains work with other prophetic persons/groups on the local level who are committed to long-term involvement aimed at developing local and outside resources to assist with transformation of the lives of rural congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Rural Chaplains Association seeks to expand its international/global linkages in order to expose participants to cultural, economic, political, ecological, and religious life of rural people from places around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Rural Chaplains Association was formed to be a ministry of presence as it provides a place for sharing struggles, losses, celebrations, and healing in the midst of continuing decline in many rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the General Conference for the past six quadrennia has affirmed the Rural Chaplains Association and the ministry of Rural Chaplains;

Therefore be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church reaffirm the Rural Chaplains

Association and the ministries of care, justice, and nurture that Rural Chaplains continue to carry out with God's people in rural areas, small towns, and village communities; and

Be it further resolved, that Global Ministries be encouraged to continue an active and ongoing relationship with the Rural Chaplains Association.

Rationale:

Affirmation of Rural Chaplaincy by the global United Methodist Church and continuation of the active linkage of the Rural Chaplains Association with Global Ministries will undergird the spirit and morale of persons committed to stand and walk with rural persons and communities that experience hurt, injustice, and economic trauma.