

1 Amend and readopt Resolution #3103. Facilitation of Cooperative Ministry Throughout the  
2 Church as follows:

3

4

**#3103. Facilitation of Cooperative Ministry Throughout the Church**

5

6 WHEREAS, cooperative forms of ministry have proven to enhance the ministries of laity,

7 certified lay ministers, and to provide greater support and peer accountability among clergy, and

8 to further connectional awareness and increased resourcing from the connectional church; and

9 WHEREAS, cooperative ministry is an intentional style of team ministry that enables groups of

10 congregations and their pastors and laity ~~in a defined geographic area, as United Methodists and~~

11 ~~ecumenically,~~ and **networking groups of church and community persons focused around a**

12 **common passionate missional interest** to work together in ~~ministries of nurture, outreach, and~~

13 witness for the purpose of ~~making disciples for the transformation of the world.~~ ; ~~working~~

14 ~~toward the elimination of poverty, and engaging congregations in missional outreach in the local~~

15 ~~and global community;~~

16 *Therefore, be it resolved,* that cooperative ministry be supported by: **affirmed and undergirded**

17 **by:**

18 1. all boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church by collaborating around ~~issues~~

19 ~~concerning cooperative ministry, i.e. training, resourcing, and financial and technical assistance,~~

20 ~~etc.;~~ **matters concerning cooperative ministries;**

21 ~~2. bishops and cabinets fulfilling the requirements of The Book of Discipline of The United~~

22 ~~Methodist Church regarding cooperative ministries, i.e., training, consultation, deployment of~~

23 ~~personnel, etc.~~

- 24    3 2. bishops and cabinets giving priority to cooperative ministries in the appointment making  
25    process, including ecumenically cooperative ministries;
- 26    ~~4. seminaries including training and field experiences for students to learn skills of working in~~  
27    ~~team settings;~~
- 28    ~~5. courses of study for local pastors, including training and field experience;~~
- 29    6 3. cabinets, conference staff, and other conference leaders of congregational development,  
30    parish and community development, etc., to give **giving** special attention to cooperative work in  
31    rural, urban, declining, growing, stable, racial/ethnic, multicultural, and **both** large and small  
32    membership charges and churches;
- 33    ~~7. cabinets and other annual conference leaders encouraging cooperative projects, ministries and~~  
34    ~~parishes as means of reaching out and starting new congregations in apartment complexes,~~  
35    ~~mobile home parks, recreational areas, prisons, retirement homes, unincorporated sections of~~  
36    ~~communities, etc.~~

37    **RATIONALE:**

38    Affirming cooperative parish ministry--church based, community-based and mission-based  
39    cooperatives--as proven viable and effective means of working at offering Christ and making  
40    disciples for the transformation of the world -- would further energize those persons who are  
41    called to this cause. The responsibilities of the cabinet and conference leaders are more clearly  
42    identified in this update.

43    **Date:** May 4, 2015

44    **Submitted by:** United Methodist Rural Advocates