

1 ***Amend and readopt Resolution # 3394. Support for All Who Minister in Rural Settings as***
2 ***follows:***

3 **3394. Support for All Who Minister in Rural Settings**

4 WHEREAS, rural churches and communities provide unique settings for ministry; and

5 WHEREAS, this uniqueness calls for specially gifted people, both laity and clergy, who desire
6 to serve in rural communities;

7 *Therefore, be it resolved,* that The United Methodist Church is called upon to affirm the
8 value and worth of all those who minister in rural settings, to celebrate their gifts and grace, and
9 to recognize their witness within The United Methodist Church.

10 ***Futher be it Rresolved,*** that The United Methodist Church is called upon to give particular
11 recognition to licensed local pastors, laypersons assigned, ***certified lay ministers, deacons,*** lay
12 missionaries, and church and community workers ***who have been appointed, assigned or have***
13 ***personally chosen to work in rural communities.***

14 *Further be it resolved,* that The United Methodist Church is called upon to support these
15 persons in ways that promote more effective ministry.

16 *Further be it resolved,* that annual conferences and districts are called upon to explore with
17 these individuals their unique gifts as they relate to service in rural areas, to identify those with
18 gifts particularly suited to rural ministry, and to encourage such uniquely gifted persons to
19 pursue ministry in rural settings.

20 *Finally be it resolved,* that annual conferences are called upon to establish support structures
21 that provide for:

- 22
 - enhancement of pastoral family life,

- 23 • “resources for maintaining pastoral well-being, including adequate health care,”
- 24 • structures and technology that encourage connectedness and accountability to the larger
- 25 church, and
- 26 • creative ways to address geographic dynamics.

27 ***Rationale:***

28 The United Methodist Church needs to continue to support all persons (laity and clergy) who
29 have chosen to minister in rural settings.

30 ***Date:*** May 4, 2015

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