

1 Amend and readopt Resolution # 3395. Ministries of Rural Chaplains as follows:

2 **3395. Ministries of Rural Chaplains**

3 WHEREAS, the General Conference of the past ~~four~~ **five** quadrennia has affirmed the Rural  
4 Chaplains Association and the ministries of rural chaplains, and called on The United Methodist  
5 Church to prepare **and certify** rural chaplains as a significant means of enabling renewal in  
6 towns/villages and rural churches and communities globally; and

7 WHEREAS, the Rural Chaplains Association has women, men, laity and clergy members,  
8 both United Methodist and ecumenical, in the global community; and

9 WHEREAS, rural chaplains are lay and clergy persons who have sensed the call to live in,  
10 work with, and advocate for town and rural persons, families, congregations and communities;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, special emphasis is placed on advocacy for justice issues among all people,  
13 regardless of ethnicity, gender, age or economic status; and

14 WHEREAS, rural chaplains meet annually for ~~support~~, encouragement, networking,  
15 resourcing, and **support enrichment** by means of focus events to enrich person-related  
16 chaplaincy-type skills, biblical understandings and experiential exposures related to issues such  
17 as immigration, migrant workers, farm workers, rural businesses and communities; and

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

21 ~~WHEREAS, the Rural Chaplains Association greatly empowers the development of lay~~  
22 ~~leadership, serves as one way of recognizing the gifts and graces of rural peoples, and unleashes~~  
23 ~~new possibilities for God's spirit to move across the countryside; and~~

24 ~~WHEREAS, rural chaplains are an asset to the General Board of Global Ministries in its~~  
25 ~~ministry through the four emphases of the General Church, and especially with the Rural~~  
26 ~~Chaplains' ongoing relationship with the Rural Urban Network (RUN); and~~

27 WHEREAS, the Rural Chaplains Association continues to work to expand its  
28 international/global linkages by **in order to** exposing participants to the cultural, economic,  
29 political, ecological and religious life of their **rural** people **from places around the world**;

30 ~~*Therefore be it resolved,* that Rural Chaplains continue to be recognized as having a special~~  
31 ~~relationship to the General Board of Global Ministries as those called to serve others; and~~

32 Be it further resolved, **Therefore be it resolved,** that The United Methodist Church commend  
33 and reaffirm its commitment to the Rural Chaplains Association as rural chaplains continue to  
34 carry out their ministries **of care, of justice, and of nurture** with hurting people and **in rural**  
35 **areas and town and village** communities; and

36 *Be it further resolved,* that the General Board of Global Ministries be encouraged to continue  
37 an active **and ongoing** relationship with the Rural Chaplains Association ~~in the future.~~

38 **Rationale:**

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

43 **Date:** May 4, 2015

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