

Support of NETWorX – a transformation ministry with the poor

Resolution new

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Adopt a new resolution entitled “Support of NETWorX” as follows:

Support of NETWorX - a transformation ministry with the poor

Whereas, poverty continues to abound in the USA, especially in the rural areas where the average national rate is 18.4%, and in the urban areas where the rate is 15.4% compared to the national average of 14.5% (USDA Economic Research Service);

Whereas, the United Methodist Church has had as one of its four Areas of Ministry Focus: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor.

Whereas, this focus emphasizes “with” – standing with those who are regarded as “the least of these,” listening to them, understanding their needs and aspirations, and working with them to achieve their goals.

Whereas, United Methodists believe working side by side with those striving to improve their situation is more effective long term than top-down charity.

Whereas, the Council of Bishops at the May 2015 meeting in Berlin, affirmed the intent to build on and extend the Four Areas of Focus adopted in 2008 and for 2016 -2020 would provide a missional direction for the next quadrennium, which includes partnering with schools to help end poverty;

Whereas, for the past eight years, beginning in 2007, Rural Faith Development CDC as an affiliate of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference has been engaged with transformational ministry with the poor across NC;

Whereas, at the request of other conferences and with leadership from across the USA, RFD has created a Wesleyan informed initiative with a measurable outcome of well-being of

abundance that is measured in many dimensions: cognitive, physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and financial;

Whereas, the very being of NETworX is encompassed in a mutual commitment to the core values of

Love - The foundational value for NETworX is love - love of neighbor,

Transformation - A belief in transformation and the importance of faith further define the power of this love; and

Whereas, these values are acted out with accountability, transparency, authenticity, acceptance, and inclusiveness; now,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Bishops, our general and annual conferences and agencies, endorse and support local groups of UMC congregations working within their community and/or county to establish NETworX initiatives.

Date: July 16, 2015

Submitted by: United Methodist Rural Advocates

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