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Suggested Title: “Apportionment Based on Percentage of Income of the Local Church”

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number: *Discipline* No. 806.1, 808.1, and 811.4;

General Church Budget Implications: – “General Church Budget Implications: No”

Global Implications: – “Global Implications: Yes”

Action desired: “Add new paragraphs before ¶ 806.1”;

In order to support the districts, annual conferences and the general funds of the general Church, each local church shall give ten percent of general budget income to the Annual Conference.

Likewise, each Annual Conference shall contribute thirty percent of the giving received from local churches to the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in ¶ 810.1.

Action desired: “Amend ¶ 806.1”;

It shall submit to each quadrennial session of the General Conference, for its action and determination, budgets of expense for each of the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in ¶ 810.1, and such other general funds as the General Conference may establish. It shall also make recommendations regarding all other funding considerations to come before General Conference. Actual receipts for each fund for the quadrennium then ending and projection of expected income based on Conference percentages shall be the basis for all budgeting procedures and comparisons for the coming quadrennium.

Action desired: “Amend ¶ 808.1”;

The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall, not less than ninety days prior to the session of each annual conference or as soon thereafter as practical, transmit to the presiding bishop thereof, to the president of the conference council on finance and administration, and to the conference treasurer a reminder of the percentage of income expected from the annual conference to be used in support of statement of the apportionments to the conference for the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Episcopal Fund, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, the Africa University Fund, and such other funds as may have been apportioned by the General Conference.

Action desired: “Amend ¶ 811.4”;

The ~~percentage of asking in support of apportionments for all apportioned~~ all general Church funds, as approved by the General Conference, shall not be subject to reduction either by the annual conference or by the charge or local church (¶ 615.1).

Rationale for the change:

Since it is primarily at the local church’s level that we engage the world for Christ and “We must make congregational vitality our true first priority” (CTA Steering Team Report), churches need to know that we are supportive of local missions as they are supportive of global transformation.

We affirm that the work of the church requires support from our people and that giving is our Christian duty and an expression of our love to God. (Par. 801 *The Book of Discipline 2008*)

We believe in connectional giving because we believe that we can do more together than we can do as individual congregations.

We believe that the present apportionment system of apportioning dollar amounts to annual conferences is a system that works well in a connection with growing membership and increasing financial support but not so well during times of economic challenges.

We believe that the General Church can best model stewardship for the local church by following a percentage, proportional system similar to the expectation of members giving a certain percentage of their income to the local church.

We understand that an annual conference cannot arbitrarily shift to a percentage of giving system and cap local church giving to 10% if that action reduces General Conference apportionments among the churches of the annual conference. See Judicial Council Decisions 818 and 1121.

We therefore turn to General Conference to institute through the Book of Discipline a system of apportionment that is sustainable during both good times and challenging economic times.

We are requesting that we move to a system of asking that is based on the local church's current income at the time of giving. Churches, like individuals, should give in response to God's generosity to the church and not in response to the needs of the institution.

We believe a new system of percentage, proportional asking, will affirm the global and connectional nature of the church while sending a strong signal to the local congregations that we value local community ministry.

Date: February 2010

Signature of the Petitioner: _____ Richard Lane Stryker III

Identification of the Petitioner: District Superintendent, Southeast District of North Alabama Conference UMC

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