





You are the  
**light**  
of the world.

A  
**city**  
set on a hill  
cannot be  
**hid.**

Let your  
**light**  
so shine  
that all may  
see your  
**good  
works**  
and  
give glory  
to your Father  
in  
**heaven.**

Matthew 5:14-16

**MAKING DISCIPLES  
THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
Oklahoma Annual Conference  
**2006 JOURNAL**



---

**CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL FOR DISASTER RESPONSE**
**A. REQUIRING ACTION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**WHEREAS** Oklahoma is regularly the site of significant natural disasters, and

**WHEREAS** the Oklahoma Conference is recruiting teams of responders to serve those impacted by disasters within and outside the borders of our state, and

**WHEREAS** response to disasters carries a financial cost, and

**WHEREAS** the need for funds is immediate and urgent when a disaster occurs,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Oklahoma Conference establish a Conference Advance Special for Disaster Response to receive gifts from churches and individuals throughout the year to be held in a special fund for the purpose of assisting with the costs related to disasters in Oklahoma and anywhere our teams may go in response to a disaster.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these funds be administered by the Oklahoma VIM Disaster Response Coordinator with oversight of the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Annual Conference Disaster Response Committee.

Jeremy Basset, Steering Committee chairperson

Tish Malloy, executive director

Ira Hart, associate director

## **CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**A. Action requiring approval:**

1. **The Oklahoma Annual Conference** – The Board of Trustees in consultation with the Oklahoma Conference Chancellor has determined that the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church should be incorporated as a Not-for-Profit Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. ¶ 2512 of *The Book of Discipline* vests the Annual Conference Board of Trustees with the authority to be incorporated or the Annual Conference to be incorporated. Such incorporation must be accomplished subject to the *Discipline* and in accordance with local law.

The Board of Trustees is presently incorporated. The Oklahoma Annual Conference is not. The Conference Chancellor recommended to the board that the Conference should incorporate to protect and exempt the individual officers, members, agents, servants, and employees, jointly and severally, from legal liability for and on account of the debts and other obligations and liabilities of every kind and description of the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

The advantages of incorporation are:

- 1) limited liability;
- 2) clear legal capacity to enter into contracts and agreements; and
- 3) perpetual duration.

The board members of the proposed corporation would be the Trustees nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Trustees requests authorization of the Annual Conference to incorporate the Oklahoma Conference as a Not-for-Profit Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oklahoma.

2. **The Local Church** – The Board of Trustees in consultation with the Oklahoma Conference Chancellor has determined that it is in the best interest of the local church and the Oklahoma Annual Conference for each local church to be incorporated as a Not-for-Profit Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. ¶ 2528 of *The Book of Discipline* vests the charge conference with the authority to direct the board of trustees of the local church to incorporate the local church. Such incorporation must be accomplished subject to the *Discipline* and in accordance with local law.

The Conference Chancellor recommended to the board that the local church should incorporate to protect and exempt the individual officers, members, agents, servants, and employees, jointly and severally, from legal liability for and on account of the debts and other obligations and liabilities of every kind and description of the local church.

The advantages of incorporation are:

- 1) limited liability;
- 2) clear legal capacity to enter into contracts and agreements; and
- 3) perpetual duration.

The board members of the proposed corporation for the local church would be the Trustees nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the charge conference.

**Recommendation:** The Board and Conference Chancellor request that Oklahoma Annual Conference require each local church that has not already done so to incorporate the local church as a Not-for-Profit Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oklahoma and that such Certificate of Incorporation be approved and authorized at the next charge conference of the local church, with the goal that all local churches be incorporated by December 31, 2006.

## **B. Action requiring approval:**

On the 4th day of February 2005, the President and Secretary signed an Oil and Gas lease with Chesapeake Exploration Limited Partnership, P.O. Box 18496, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73154 for interest located in Stephens County, Oklahoma, described as follows: Lots 3 & 4 & E/2 SW/4 of Section 18, Township 1N, Range 8W, and containing 157.04 acres, more or less.

On the 4th day of March 2005, the President and Secretary signed an Authorization For Sale of Rental Property, authorizing Jo Ann McNaught, Conference Treasurer and Benefits Officer, to execute necessary instruments to effect the sale of the following property in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, described as follows: 2840/2842 NW

20th St., Lots 11 & 12, Blk 9 Crestwood Addition, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106  
“Currently owned by Oklahoma Conference the United Methodist Church Board of Pensions (sic).

On the 25th day of July 2005, the President and Secretary signed an Oil and Gas Lease with King Energy, L.L.C., Park Harvey Center, 200 N. Harvey Suite 322, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102, for interest located in Canadian County, described as follows: Section 29, Township 12N, Range 8W, and containing 640 acres, more or less.

On the 3rd day of August 2005, the President and Secretary signed an Oil and Gas Lease with Mewbourne Oil Company, P.O. Box 7698, Tyler, Texas 75711 for interest located in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, described as follows: Block 42, Lots 7 through 12 inclusive; and Block 43, Lots 13 through 15 inclusive all located in the Original Town of Strong City, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof, including all streets and alleys adjacent and abutting thereto of Section 24, Township 14 North, 23 West, and containing 1.36708 acres, more or less.

On the 5th day of August 2005, the President and Secretary signed an Oil and Gas Lease with Chesapeake Exploration Limited Partnership, P.O. Box 18496, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73154 for interest located in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, described as follows: Lots 4 and 5 of Block 16 and Lots 1 through 12 of Block 19, Town of Yewed, Oklahoma, including adjoining streets and alleys of Section 32, Township 26N, Range 11W, and containing 4.646464 acres, more or less.

On the 3rd day of October 2005, the President and Secretary signed an Oil and Gas lease with Jess Harris, III, Inc., Oil Center Building East, 2601 N.W. Expressway, Suite 200E, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112 for interest in Hughes County, Oklahoma described as follows: Part of the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 6 North, Range 9 E and containing 1.0 net mineral acres, more or less.

**C. REPORT ON 2005 JOINT MEETING of Trustees, Cabinet, and Council on Finance and Administration:**

The Joint Meeting was called to order by Kurt Glassco, Trustees chairperson, on June 28, 2005, at St. Luke’s UMC in Oklahoma City, with 37 organization members and three visitors present.

Bishop Hayes led the group in worship and in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Jim Howard, representing United Methodist Property And Casualty Trust (UMPACT), presented detailed information concerning the issues surrounding funding and non-funding membership in UMPACT.

Jo Ann McNaught presented a proposal drafted by a Funding Sub-Committee to make funds available if the body elected to become a funding member of UMPACT.

Following extended discussion, the group, with two dissenting votes, chose to become a funding member of UMPACT.

The funding plan approved by the body calls for utilizing the Insurance Fund cash flow, insofar as possible. It permits borrowing funds first from the Contingency Fund and/or The United Methodist Foundation if needed to meet cash flow requirements. Borrowed funds will be repaid through assessment to participants as a part of premium. The assessment should not exceed a 2 percent addition to premium and may be less to avoid undue premium increases to churches and ministries.

**D. Oklahoma Conference Insurance and Ministry Protection Program:**

Effective on October 1, 2005, the Oklahoma Annual Conference insurance program paid PACT \$502,177 and became a 100-percent funded owner/member. The most significant change was moving the anniversary date of our policies from October 1 to January 1.

On November 16, 2005, at the 1st Annual Members Meeting of PACT, held at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Brian Bakeman, chairperson of the Oklahoma Conference Property, Casualty and Workers' Compensation Insurance Committee, became the first elected member of PACT's board of directors.

The Conference Insurance Committee is hoping to work with PACT to provide more in the area of background checks and property valuations. PACT has added a new position called Director of Ministry Protection.

The Conference insurance program currently has:

- 511 Church/Agencies insured
- \$770,249,000 Total insured property values
- 403 insured vehicles
- \$40,483,000 insured Workers Compensation payroll
- \$2,776,157 in premiums collected (3-7-06) for the current policy year

Kurt G. Glassco, chairperson, Conference Board of Trustees  
 Joel Betow, secretary, Conference Board of Trustees  
 Brian Bakeman, chairperson, Conference Insurance Committee  
 Mark A. Ashton, Conference Chancellor

---

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND MERCY MINISTRIES****A. REQUIRES ACTION BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**WHEREAS**, Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries has been the name of the prison ministry of the Oklahoma Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church since at least 1993, and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the Executive Director of said ministry has been an ordained elder uninterruptedly appointed by the Resident Bishop and Cabinet of said Annual Conference since 1993 as an Extension Minister, and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, by Standing Rule enacted by the Oklahoma Annual Conference in 2005, the Annual Conference Council Executive Committee serves as the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the Executive Director of Conference Program Ministries serves as immediate supervisor of said Executive Director, and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the governing board of said ministry is The Oklahoma United Methodist Prison Ministry Board of Directors Inc., an Oklahoma not-for-profit corporation whose Internal Revenue section 501(c)(3) tax number is the same as the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, said Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries owns property, both real and personal, most of which is titled in the name of The Oklahoma United Methodist Prison Ministry Board of Directors Inc.,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that:

1. Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church is formally established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of said Annual Conference for the purpose of ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, adult and juvenile and victims of crime and correctional employees and their families. Ministries of advocacy and Restorative Justice are also included. Said Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries is also authorized to own, separately from said Oklahoma Annual Conference, real and personal property.

2. All real and personal property be transferred by the Oklahoma United Methodist Prison Ministry Board of Directors Inc. to Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church.

3. Current directors of the Oklahoma United Methodist Prison Ministry Board of Directors Inc. dissolve said corporation upon transfer of all its assets to Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church.

4. The Executive Director of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries shall serve as immediate supervisor of all other clergy appointed to said ministry as well as lay employees. Said clergy appointments shall also be deemed extension ministry.

5. The Executive Director of said ministry is also empowered to create a ministry Vision Development Team, whose members and terms of office shall be developed by said Executive Director.

Stan Basler, director

**HEALTH AND WHOLENESS - A Resolution  
Presented by the Healthcare Committee of the  
Conference Board of Pensions**

**WHEREAS** mental, physical, and spiritual health are intricately interwoven; and  
**WHEREAS** our Biblical heritage speaks of healing as one part of proclaiming the gospel; and

**WHEREAS** historically, United Methodism has acted out of this heritage by including health care as part of its ministries; and

**WHEREAS** we are keenly aware of the declining health of American people, approaching a crisis point; and

**WHEREAS** Oklahoma is the only state whose death rate has been increasing since 1990; and

**WHEREAS** the health of many citizens is being impacted by illnesses that can be prevented with a change of lifestyle; and

**WHEREAS** the church has a long history of being involved in matters that affect the life of the community; and

**WHEREAS** clergypersons are recognized leaders in the community;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Oklahoma Conference authorize the Conference Board of Pensions to establish a task force on Health and Wholeness that will

1. Develop a plan to encourage self-care by clergy and lay members of our churches;
2. Develop and promote local church and institutional programs to provide exercise venues and healthy eating knowledge and experiences;
3. Develop a plan to encourage local churches to partner with community resources to promote community health; and
4. Present these plans to the 2007 Annual Conference session for approval and implementation.

**RESOLUTION ON A LIVING WAGE**

**WHEREAS...**

1. Poverty is a moral issue, and not merely an economic one, as evidenced by more than 2,000 scriptures that address the topics of the poor, money, greed, and the treatment of our “neighbors.”

2. *The Social Principles* of The United Methodist Church state, in part, that “every person has the right to a job at a **living wage**” (*Book of Discipline*, paragraph 163 C) and “since low wages are often a cause of poverty, employers should pay their employees a wage that does not require them to depend upon government subsidies such as food stamps or welfare for their livelihood (*Book of Discipline*, paragraph 163 E).

3. As a point of reference, a **living wage** is defined as that which a full-time, full-year employee would need to earn (including benefits) to support a family of four at 130 percent of the poverty line, being the point at which a family can live without government assistance (cf. Economic Policy Institute’s “Issue Guide: Living Wage”).

4. At the state and federal level, there exists little possibility of either raising the minimum wage (currently \$5.15 an hour), which was last adjusted in September 1997, or addressing the issue of a national living wage. To have kept pace with inflation since 1997, the minimum would have to be almost \$9 per hour in 2006. Yet, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005 (HR2429, S1062) was voted down in Congress on Oct. 19, 2005. This law would have raised the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour. The Oklahoma State Legislature voted down a \$1 per hour increase in February 2006. The Church can and should be taking a lead in this moral issue as there is little political will or commitment to address it by law and by policymakers.

5. The wages of the bottom 10 percent of wage earners fell by 9.3 percent between 1979 and 1999. At the same time, salaries of the highest-paid workers continued to rise—to all-time highs in absolute dollars and especially in relation to the lowest-paid workers in the company. Those salaries have grown from a ratio of 42:1 between the highest- and lowest-paid workers in 1982 to the current ratio of 431:1. (“Executive Excess 2005,” from the Institute for Policy Studies)

6. The 2003 U.S. Census Bureau “Report on Income and Poverty” indicated the state of Oklahoma had more than 500,000 people (14.6 percent of our population) living in poverty. When broken down by ages, the report revealed that 1 in 5 children in our state live in poverty.

7. Solid research and statistics have shown that living wage ordinances have not increased costs, reduced competitiveness, nor have resulted in job losses, nor the replacement of higher-skilled workers with lower skilled ones. On the contrary, such ordinances have resulted in a more highly motivated and stable workforce, increases in efficiency, lower staff turnover and, therefore, lower staff recruitment and training costs (cf. Economic Policy Institute’s “Issue Guide: Living Wage”).

8. The Church’s call to stand with the poor and marginalized is undermined by our own failure to live up to the standards we demand of society at large by supporting principles that are not put into practice within the Church’s life.

#### **THE OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HEREBY RESOLVES:**

1. To support and strongly encourage churches and Conference agencies to champion a base living wage, excluding benefits, of \$9.60 per hour (equivalent to an annual salary of \$20,000) for all employees of the Church, whether contract, part-time, or full-time, within the next three years. (This figure is taken from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “2006 Poverty Guidelines,” and applies to the wage needed for a family of four).

2. To support and strongly encourage that the maximum salary for the highest-paid employee/appointed person not exceed four times the lowest-paid full-time staff person (excluding benefits).

3. To exclude any existing employee/appointed person whose current salary already exceeds the formula established by this resolution.

4. Annually to request the Church and Society Commission to present to the Annual Conference any revised figure for the base living wage, based on the DHHS annual “Poverty Guidelines.”

**Unanimously affirmed by the Oklahoma Conference Church and Society  
Commission at its April 2006 meeting.**

