

HERE'S HOW TO PETITION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- A. Petitions will be accepted from any West Michigan Conference agency, local church, or Conference member (lay or clergy). Petitions submitted by individuals (clergy or lay persons) shall state the local church or agency of which each signer is a member. When several members of a church or agency sign a petition, only the name of the church or agency, along with the number of persons signing the petition will be printed.
- B. Petitions may be submitted by email or in print.
- C. If a petition requests funding by the Annual Conference, the Conference Director will forward it to the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA). CFA shall make its recommendation regarding the petition when it is considered at the Annual Conference session.
- D. Deadlines:
 - 1. All petitions filed with the Conference Director by **Friday, February 5, 2010**, shall be mailed to the members of the Annual Conference by mid-April.
 - 2. "Response" petitions must be filed with the Conference Director by **Friday, April 30, 2010**, provided that the subject of such petition is in response to a matter contained in Volume I of the 2010 Conference Journal (pre-Conference reports) or to a petition submitted to the 2010 annual conference.
- E. The petitioner is responsible for distributing any supporting materials beyond the content of the petition. Members of Annual Conference need to have adequate information to make an informed decision.

THE WAY TO WRITE A PETITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

SUBJECT: *(What you want addressed . . . the area of concern)*

MOTION: *(The proposal you wish to make, what you want changed. If it is to amend by deleting or adding, be certain you specify the line or paragraph. The motion should state clearly what action would be carried out, when, and by whom.)*

RATIONALE: *(The reason[s] for your motion)*

Name and address of sender (individual, agency, or church) must appear at the end. If Administrative Board or Council, list the complete name of the church and indicate the number of "Yes," and "No" votes. Please—use one petition per subject.

Petitions to **Annual** Conference can deal only with those matters that are subject to Annual Conference action. Annual Conference cannot amend the *Book of Discipline*. This can only be done by **General** Conference.

The "**subject—motion—rationale**" format **must** be used. See the example and the form printed on the other side of this sheet. The Reference Committee will edit petitions to conform to Conference procedures.

**If you need assistance in writing a petition, contact
Lois Moseley, Conference Facilitator, (616) 949-8938; Ward Pierce, Rules of Order Chair, (269) 496-8070;
or Benton Heisler (see below).**

Annual Conference petitions are to be emailed to:

Benton@wmcumc.org

or mailed to:

Benton Heisler, Conference Director
P. O. Box 6247
Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6247

**The deadline for first petitions is Friday, February 5, 2010, 5:00 pm.
The deadline for "response" petitions is Friday, April 30, 2010, 5:00 pm.**

Sample Petition to Annual Conference

SUBJECT: Confessions of Faith

MOTION: Each church shall make confessions of faith a priority with reports given at its Charge Conference on the reasons for the number (or lack of) confessions of faith.

RATIONALE: Each church's ministry should be in accord with the mission of The United Methodist Church, which is "making disciples of Jesus Christ." Reports to the Charge Conference will help churches to be accountable to the conference for fulfilling their mission. We will all benefit by knowing the reasons some churches gain disciples through new confessions of faith, and the reasons some churches have no confessions of faith. Resources for fulfilling this mission are available from the Conference Board of Evangelism and the conference ministry consultants.

PETITION TO 2010 WEST MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date _____

SUBJECT

MOTION

RATIONALE

Petitioner _____

Local Church _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Email to:

**Benton Heisler, Conference Director, at Benton@wmcumc.org
or mail to PO Box 6247, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6247
for arrival no later than Friday, February 5, 2010.**