

submitted by: Conference Board of Directors

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

“Youth/Young Adult Delegates to Conference Annual Meeting”

Statement of Purpose: To promote and nurture youth leadership in the greater settings of the church by amending the bylaws of the Conference to give youth a voting presence at Annual Meeting.

Background Statement: In response to dwindling youth involvement at Annual Meeting, it is proposed that youth be given a voting role in the Conference Annual Meeting. To encourage participation by local churches, it is proposed that each church be given an additional voting delegate position that must be filled by a youth or young adult (no older than age twenty-five (25)).

The practice of designating youth and young adult delegates is followed nationally for General Synod as noted in paragraph 186 of the UCC Constitution and Bylaws, 2001 edition:

“(b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ’s commitment to affirmative action;... youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of each delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the time of commencing of their terms, and where possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of high school age; and (2) young adults, persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of age.”

After research, it was discovered that at least ten other Conferences include a local church voting youth delegate position such as this in their bylaws.

The age of the additional delegate will be no more than twenty-five years of age in accordance with the current Conference bylaws, which refer to youth as “persons twenty-five (25) years of age or younger when elected” (Article VIII, Section 2, sub-section A, Paragraph 2, Sub-paragraph c).

The Conference Annual Meeting in 2000 adopted “Reconceptualizing the Ministries of the Northern California Nevada Conference” as “an effort to re-think our ministry as a Conference, in light of the imperatives, resources, and needs of our life together in the 21st Century.” The “Reconceptualizing” document referred to “a persevering emphasis on youth and young adults.” www.ncnuc.org/docsandresources/recon.html We believe that this “persevering emphasis” will be enhanced by the guarantee of youth/young adult delegates to Annual Meeting.

An additional youth/young adult delegate from each local church will ensure that the voices and concerns of youth and young adults will be heard in the life of the Conference, emphasizing that God is still speaking through members of all ages.

Administrative Action

As an expression of our commitment to involve more youth and young adults [ages 13-25] in the decision-making processes of the Northern California Nevada Conference, this Annual Meeting amends the Conference Bylaws (Article IV, Section 2, Sub-section C, Paragraph 2) thus:

Each member church shall be entitled to ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** lay delegates for the first two hundred (200) active church members or fraction thereof, **at least one of whom shall be between the ages of 13 and 25 when elected.** Additionally, each member church shall be entitled to one (1) other lay delegate for each one hundred (100) active members or major fraction thereof, above the original two hundred (200), except that no church shall be entitled to more than ~~five (5)~~ **six (6)** lay delegates.

Fiscal Impact: Cost to congregations of an additional delegate's Annual Meeting expenses.

Recommendations for implementation: It is recommended that revised bylaws be distributed to each local church and that the revised bylaws be available online. It is also recommended that future Annual Meeting and Planning Teams be encouraged to find ways to take youth delegate mentoring into account in the planning if necessary.

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