

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” (VIII, 2A2c).

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 directs the Conference Board of Directors to:

1. draft a proposed change in the Conference Bylaws which would increase the number of voting delegates per congregation by 1 youth or young adult;
2. distribute the proposed change in accordance with the provisions for amending the Conference bylaws, giving notice that a vote will be taken at the beginning of Annual Meeting 2006 to be effective at the time of the vote.

Pending adoption of a change in the Conference bylaws, the Annual Meeting urges all congregations to include a youth/young adult among its delegation to the Conference Annual Meeting in 2006.

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

Contact Persons: Faith Burgess, President, Conference Board of Directors
175 Dolton Ave., San Carlos CA 94070
650-341-8061 fburgess@smcoe.k12.ca.us
Alex Peters, Member, Conference Board of Directors
2804 MLK Jr Way, Apt. B, Berkeley CA 94703-2112
510-541-1127 GoldenGiff@comcast.net
Meredith Jackson, Youth Advocate,
5394 Marigold Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-7725
707-546-4097 mbjackson@gmail.com